THE HINDOO PATRIOT

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Per Annum in Advance.
TOWN.....11-8.
MOFUSSIL.....13-4.

THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 22ND MARCH.

IN THE House of Commons, Mr. Plimsoll formally retracted the imputations he had cast upon Sir C. Russell and Mr. Onslow, and those gentlemen both expressed themselves perfectly satisfied. Thereupon the Chancellor of the Exechequer, while avowing his satisfaction that the personal part of the question was at an end, yet thought the House was bound to maintain the independence of Parliament. He accordingly moved a resolution, asserting that Mr. Plimsoll's conduct involved a breach of privilege, but that, after the withdrawal of his offensive epithets, the House deemed it unnecessary to take further action. After a prolonged and animated debate, in which Sir W. Harcourt, who moved "the previous question," held that the matter ought to have been allowed to drop after the apology of the member for Derby, the original resolution was carried by 182 to 116.

IN THE LATE explosion at the Winter palace, St. Petersburgh the total number of persons killed is stated to be 10, while 47 soldiers and one domestic were injured. It is reported that, simultaneously with the horrible crime perpetrated within the Palace bombs were thrown in the streets close to the Imperial residence, and that one of them exploded under a private carriage which was passing at the time. The *Golos* says that all the Palaces belonging to the Crown are being searched by sappers, and several arrests of workmen have been made.

COLONEL Synge, a British subject, lately employed by Sir H. Layard in relieving destitute refugees in Bulgaria, was kidnapped from his farm near Tricoviste, on the 19th inst., by a band of Greek brigands, and carried off to the mountains. The English Consul at Salonica is endeavouring, in conjunction with the Turkish authorities, to procure the release of the captive, and two of Her Majesty's ships have been ordered to the Gulf of Salonica to co-operate for the same object.

THE CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT have four bills in hand to change the land laws of England. Lord Cairns proposes, within certain limits, to give to every possessor of settled land, "not as a boon but as part and parcel of the enjoyment of his estate," all the powers of sale, exchange, partition, and leasing which are now allowed to actual owners. That is the intention of the first and most important of his four bills. The second aims at simplifying the practice of conveyancing, and the third provides new rules for the remuneration of solicitors in non-contentious cases. The fourth is to reduce the periods within which, as regards certain cases, actions at law may be taken, the limit as regards administrations and speciality debts being paid at twelve instead of twenty years; and, as regards simple contract debts, at three instead of six years.

THE TIMES thus remarks on Sir John Strachey's Budget:

"We do not see how Sir John Strachey can show that 'his plans regarding the Famine Insurance Fund have completely succeeded,' when in March last the Government declared that the fund had 'virtually ceased to exist.' Neither the so-called surplus of this year nor the estimated surplus of next, we think, affords the securities which Sir John Strachey declared to be necessary when he imposed the additional taxes in 1878."

The truth is it is a clear case of taking money under false pretences.

THE SAME JOURNAL thus comments on the increase of the salt revenue:

"The increased receipts from the salt duty, which, we believe, are spread over the whole of India, and which amount, in spite of the recent equalization and reduction of the rates, to £362,000, are another testimony to the improvement in the condition of the people. The larger consumption of salt, with a lower rate of duty, is an index of the spending power of the community as accurate as the excise revenue at home."

The London *Statesman* thus remarks on the above:

The writer has forgotten that the abolition of the salt line in Rajpootana had brought probably thirty to forty millions of people in the Native States under our excise duty on salt, and that careful statistical inquiry must precede any such gratifying conclusion as is here jumped at.

We have repeatedly exposed this fact, but *cui bono*?

TUESDAY, 23RD MARCH.

AN IMPORTANT improvement in telegraphy is about to be widely introduced in America. Ten years ago tehe cost of battery power to the Western Union Telegraph Company was 5s. per mile of wire, but now i is less than 1s. 6d., and the improvement about to be introduced will effect a saving of about 50 per cent. This improvement is nothing more than the use of Siemen's dymano-electric machines in place of batteries, a substitution rendered possible by the ingenuity and perseverance of Mr. S. D. Field of San Francisco. The machines will carry less weight and will not occupy more than a tenth of the room now devoted to batteries, and one man can attend to them all.

A PENAL CODE has been drawn up for Travancore. The new regulation, it is said, is a most complete one; it is from the pen of Mr. Chellapa Pillai, Chief Justice of Travancore.

THE RANGOON GAZETTE hears that a Russian Emissary, of the name of Paschius, is expected shortly in King Theebaw's capital with a message from the Czar. What can this message be? Perhaps the whole thing is a *canard*!

IS CHENDRIAH, the leader of the Rumpa rebellion, in Madras, really dead or not? A correspondent of the Madras *Standard*, writing from Vizagapatam, on the 28th ultimo, says:

"Chendriah's resurrection to life is confirmed by an official report received here last evening. It is stated therein that he is armed and at the head of a large gang of Rampaites, who have commenced their incendiarism and are pillaging the villages in the neighbourhood of the Madgoli Zemindary, an estate about thirty four miles distant. Immediately on receipt of this report the Superintendent of Police, Major Harris, a European Inspector and Head Constable, and seventy constables with a large quantity of ball ammunition left."

The Madras Government ought to publish the official report in order to set doubts at rest.

THE TRIAL of the supposed accomplices of Wassudeo Bulwant Phadke, opened at Shahabad before the Joint Commissioners appointed by the British Government and H. H. the Nizam—Major Dobbs and Ekra Moola Khan. Twenty-eight prisoners were placed before the Commissioners, but Mr. Abdul Huk, who appeared to prosecute, withdrew the charge against ten of them, the "young Brahmins" of whom we heard so much when the convict Wassudeo was captured in July last. Mr. Abdul Huk said he was requested to withdraw the charge against them for special reasons," "although, he added, "we are morally certain of their complicity." What are these "special reasons?" It is strange that these men should have been so long kept in durance vile when Government was not prepared to prosecute them.

AT THE ROYAL COLONIAL INSTITUTE, Mr. Staveley Hill, M. P., raised an important question, in a very able paper—"an Empire's Parliament"—the establishment of a High State Council, to which all parts of the empire should send their representatives. Such a Parliament, he contended, ought to be established to consider all questions of customs' tariffs and trade, weights and measures, coinage, paper money, bank regulations, patents, copyright, postal and telegraph service, naval and military defence, and such like. The Duke of Manchester K. P., was in the chair, and warmly supported Mr. Hill's suggestions.

PROFESSOR MAX Muller read a paper, at the Royal Asiatic Society, on "Sanskrit Texts discovered in Japan," which excited considerable interest. Sir H. Rawlinson was in the chair. Mr. H. H. Wilson and other Oriental scholars had longed for Sanskrit words in Chinese, or Japanese characters, together with the trasliteration of Sanskrit, and Chinese or Japanese. This has at length been obtained. The Sanskrit in use in Japan was written in an alphabet very nearly the same as the old Nepaulese.

WEDNESDAY, 24TH MARCH.

GENERAL LORIS MELIKOFF has been appointed by Imperial ukase to be the head of a Supreme Commission to watch over the safety of the Russian Empire. A St. Petersburg Correspondent states that the step is taken to preserve State order and social tranquillity. General Melikoff is to be the supreme authority in all State offences in all parts of the Russian Empire, and all demands made by him are to be at once complied with by the local authorities. It remains with him to define and exact the penalties for non-compliance with and non-execution of his orders and measures. The Governor-Generalship of St. Petersburg, to which General Gourko was appointed, is abolished.

A VIENNA PAPER publishes details of the arrangement which it states is concluded betwen England and Persia. The latter Power is to occupy Herat, with the assistance of General Stewart, if that should be required. England guarantees the integrity of Persia, while the Shah undertakes that Russian troops shall not march through his dominions, and that the defence of his north eastern frontiers shall be perfected.

THE FOLLOWING conversations took place in the House of Commons regarding India:

INDIAN CONTRACTS.

Mr. E. Stanhope, in reply to Mr. Pulestou, who asked whether he could produce copies of the contracts entered into by the India Office for the carriage of railway materials in India said they had no desire to withhold any information that could be properly given, but to produce copies of all contracts would not only be injurious to the public, but possibly to some of the contracting parties. It was true that after promising the inquiry last year he had said that the report with reference to the carriage of raw materials to India should be laid on the table but when the inquiry was made he found that some evidence could only be obtained under a promise of secrecy, and, therefore, he found it impossible to produce the report.—Mr. Jenkins wished to know if the report in question implicated any official at the India Office, or otherwise, and if that was the reason why it was held back.—Mr. Stanhope: I think it will be obvious to the House that if I am unable to produce the document, it is not likely I can give the House the contents of it.—Mr. Jenkins said that as the report had not been presented he would call attention to the discussion which had taken place last year, and move for the papers.

INDIGO CULTIVATION.

Mr O'Donnell asked if the attention of the Under-Secretary of State for India had been called to a passage in a report of Sir Ashley Eden, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in reference to abuses in connection with indigo cultivation in Behar.—Mr. E. Stanhope said that although search had been made he had not been able to find the passage quoted by the hon. member. Perhaps the hon. gentleman would send him a reference.

THE FIRST INSTALMENT of antiquities from the Indian Museum presented to the Trustees of the British Museum has been put on exhibition. It consists of five large cases containing Buddhist sculptures dating five hundred years before Christ, and some principally from the neighbourhood of Peshawur. At present no description of these wonderful sculptures has been given, but the Museum authorities have engaged some of the most learned professors to enlighten the public upon the subjects represented on the ancient stone and stucco.

A CORRESPONDENT says that the inhabitants of the village of Bagnaparah and its neighbourhood have shewn a noble spirit of patriotism in the appropriation of the refunded chowkeydari tax, which had been returned to them on their petition to the repairs of the local school-house which had gone to decay. The contributions from six villages including Bagnaparah, Baitiparah, amounted to Rs. 149.

THURSDAY, 25TH MARCH.

NATIVE BOMBAY seems to be furious about the late demonstration in honor of Sir Richard Temple. The native papers are unanimous in expressing their disapproval of the move. If there is such a strong feeling among the native community of Bombay on the subject, why did they not call a counter-meeting?

BABU NISHIKANT CHATTERJEA, the Bengali Professor in St. Petersburgh University, has left Russia. The cause of his sudden departure is not known; possibly Russia feels that the Bengali is too knowing to be kept within her borders.

WE TAKE from the *Journal of the National Indian Association* the following items of Indian intelligence:

Mr. J. Ghoshal (Calcutta), Mr. C. Akilandaiya (Madras), and Mr. Syud Kazim Ali (Gwalior), have joined the Inner Temple.

Mr. S. Sattianaden (Madras) has obtained the prize in English Literature at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge (bracketed).

Mr. and Mrs. Satyendra Nath Tagore and their children and Mr. Robinath Tagore have returned to India.

WE ARE indebted to the *Indian Daily News* for the following item: Amongst the suggestions made by the Government of Bengal, with regard to the encouragement of agriculture on an improved system amongst the Natives of Bengal, the Government of India is said to have approved a proposition to send out two graduates of the Calcutta University to England, to learn the arts of agriculture in one of the colleges of the United Kingdom, both theoreti-

cally and practically. Why not utilize Babu Sreenath Dutt, who studied the science of agriculture in England, and who is now we believe engaged in some tea plantation in Assam?

THE EAST states that Rajah Shurjakant Acharji Chowdhry Bahadur has intimated his desire to the Collector of Mymensing to purchase shares worth Rs. 50,000 in the proposed Railway from Shealo to Mymensing.

MR. COXHEAD, the Magistrate of Dacca, has offered a prize of Rs. 100 to the students of the Dacca College for the best English Essay on "the Emancipation of Women in Bengal." Only unmarried students will be allowed to compete for the prize. Why this awkward condition? Are unmarried students in a better position than married students to know women and their qualities?

THE TIMES OF INDIA learns that it has been decided to abolish the Chief Commissionership of Assam on grounds of economy. We cannot believe that this measure will be carried out till Sir Steuart Bayley is provided for.

FRIDAY, 26TH MARCH.

A CORRESPONDENT thus writes to the *Statesman*:

Your readers are perhaps aware that the two widow Ranees Jamuna Kumari and Subhadra Kumari of Nasipore made over the management of their estates of their own accord to the Court of Wards some time ago.

It is in connection with the Court of Wards administration of these estates that a curious case has recently been tried by the Sessions Court here. The prisoner, one Bungshi Gour, was charged with the offence of having stolen two photos from the table of the drawing-room of the Nasipore *Rajbaree*. The prosecutor was, nominally, one Narain Singh the present jemadar of the Nasipore *Rajbaree* guards, but virtually the General Manager of Wards estates, Baboo Nobinkrishna Banerjee. The prisoner, an old servant, and the late Jemadar of the *Rajbaree* was dismissed by the Manager on suspicion, but subsequently retained by Ranee Jamuna Kumari in her private employ. The story of the prosecution was that on a certain night at about 11 o'clock the prisoner, while returning from the chamber of the minor, the adopted son of Ranee Jamuna Kumari, was challenged by the present Jemadar, the complainant, whereupon an altercation ensued, and on the prisoner's person being searched the two photos were found in his possession. The plea taken in defence was that the prisoner had never stolen the photos but that they were thrust upon his person at the instigation of the Manager with a view to have him arrested on a false charge of theft. It was also alleged on behalf of the defence that the case was a false case, maliciously got up by Manager with intent to remove the prisoner from his present appointment under Ranee Jamuna Kumari who retained the prisoner in spite of his dismissal by the Manager, and thereby to wound and insult the feelings of the Ranee. It appeared in evidence that attempts to get rid of the prisoner against the wishes of the Ranee were made by the Manager, and, as the defence explained, failing in them, the Manager had at last brought this case against the prisoner to serve his purpose. Many witnesses were examined on behalf of the prosecution, but they failed to make out a case against the prisoner, whilst facts were disclosed which went to support the plea of the defence. The defence examined no witnesses. The jury declined to believe the evidence for the prosecution and unanimously returned a verdict of "not guilty," and the prisoner was acquitted.

We have heard a great deal about this Manager and his doings, which will we believe be brought to the notice of the Board. We therefore now abstain from making any remarks.

MR. BURGESS of Bombay seems to be the *alter ego* of Mr. Fergusson, the antiquarian, who like the Turk, it seems, cannot bear a brother near the throne and must therefore oust Dr. Rajendralala Mitra from the high pedestal which he occupies as an antiquarian. Mr. Burgess had attacked Dr. Mitra in the *Bombay Gazette* about his paper on the Ajanta Caves, and the good Doctor has given him sharp for his meddlesomeness. We hope Mr. Burgess will bear in mind the lines of the poet—

> Those who in quarrels interpose
> Must too often wipe a bloody nose.

WE ARE indebted to the Press Commissioner for the following note:

The Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief having observed a statement in the Press that Officers of the army have been allowed to act as newspaper correspondents during the war in Afghanistan, has pointed out to the Commander-in-Chief in India that the regulations of the service do not sanction any such arrangement, and has desired that instructions may be issued to prevent any infringement of the regulations in this respect for the future. In compliance with the instructions of H. R. H. the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief it has become necessary to extend to regimental Officers of both services the prohibition which has been already applied to Staff Officers. The Government of India, in carrying out the orders received from the Horse Guards, have decided, with the concurrence of the Commander-in-Chief in India, to allow a period of six weeks, within which the present employment of regimental Officers as correspondents shall cease, and the newspapers have time to make other arrangements. The Commander-in-Chief in India has received the necessary sanction for giving effect to the above instructions.

WE HEAR that as some of the executors of the late Rai Annodapersad Rai Bahadur having declined to take probate the Board of Revenue as the Court of Wards takes over the management of his estates.

IT IS said that the recent rain in the Eastern districts has been followed by sudden floods in northern Cachar. The spaiths have carried away the coolies' lines in one place, and at another some twenty coolies have been drowned at a ferry, owing to the sudden rise of the stream. The weather has been unusually wet. Last week nineteen inches of rain were registered in north Cachar. It would seem as if the bad weather prevalent over the head of the bay broke against the Shillong hills, and flooded the streams.

NUNDKISHORE, a watchmaker and foreman of the Jeypore School of Arts, has manufactured some billiard balls, which Mr. John Roberts pronounces to be faultless. Nundkishore invented a new lathe for turning the balls. This man deserves encouragement.

WE ARE sorry to learn from the *Englishman* the death of Mr E. D. Sassoon. He was a brother of the well-known Sir D. Sassoon, and was originally a member of his firm, but about fifteen years ago he started in business for himself, and by his energy and business capacity soon became a formidable rival to the older establishment. He has, we understand, left a large fortune, and the business will be carried on by his sons, who have, for some years, been associated with him in the firm.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE has delivered a very important judgment affecting the legal practitioners. Certain pleaders of the High Court refused to act because they were not paid their fees in full by the mooktear who had engaged their services. His Lordship remarks:

I have myself had a pretty long experience at the Bar in England, and I consider it a great mistake to suppose that a barrister may not, both as a matter of right and of professional propriety, insist upon the payment of his fee before he reads his brief or pleads his client's cause. I have acted upon that principle myself; and I know that many of the most eminent men in the profession have constantly done the same.

Accordingly the pleaders are excused and the mooktear is made liable for any damage which his client may have sustained.

SATURDAY, 27TH MARCH.

WE HEAR it reported that Babu Brojendrakumar Seal, Subordinate Judge, 24-Pergunnahs, is the fortunate individual who gets the new Civil and Sessions Judgship of Bankurah.

THE CORONER'S JURY on the Calcutta Municipal Railway Accident have strongly censured the management of the Railway. The result is that the Municipal Commissioners have instituted a prosecution against the Railway driver and guard for neglect of duty.

WE HAVE received a report of a diabolical murder at Behala committed by some persons in respectable position in life. The murder, we are told, was committed upon a lady of a good Brahmin family attended with horrible cruelties. It is said that two of the culprits supposed to be implicated in this brutal murder have been arrested, but that the third person has absconded. The Police are on the alert.

THE BESTOWAL of the title of Maharaja upon the Maharaja of Durbhanga has been followed by his exemption from personal attendance in Civil Courts.

THERE will be a Garden Party at Belvedere on Tuesday next. This occasion will be taken to confer upon the gentlemen, newly honored with titles, the Sanads and Khillats of their titles.

APROPOS of titles the *Indian Daily News* publishes the following rules of Government on the subject:

Titles

1. "Titles are awarded by the Governor-General in Council to the Native subjects of Government on the following grounds:"—

1st.—"Services during war or in time of public emergency."

2nd.—"Meritorious conduct on the part of landholders in aiding the Police."

3rd.—"Distinguished success in improving the agriculture system or manufactures of the country."

4th.—"The execution of important work of public utility."

5th.—"Liberal contributions for the support and promotion of beneficial public undertakings and institutions.

II.—"Titles are not hereditary, but due attention is at all times paid to the claims of men of family to succeed to the rank enjoyed by their ancestors.

III.—"The following are the titles granted by the Government."—

Hindu.—"Rai, "Rai Bahadur, "Rajah.
Rajah Bahadur, Maharajah Bahadur.
Hindu, Mercantile.—"Sabie, "Seth.
Mahomedan.—"Khan, Bahadur, "Khan Bahadur, Nawab.

IV.—"The eldest son of a Hindu Rajah should be addressed as 'Konwar, and the younger sons as Mayan.

THE FOLLOWING particulars regarding the relations between Russia and Germany are given in the English papers brought in by the last mail:

The Berlin correspondent of the *Standard* makes a statement of extreme importance; that, as recently as last summer, Russia made a distinct proposal to France of war against the Fatherland. The proposal followed immediately upon the refusal of Germany to restrain Austria from occupying Bosnia. Coincidently with the despatch of this message the Russian troops in Poland, Podolia, and Lithuania effected a movement towards the German frontier. M. Waddington declined to entertain the Russian proposition, and, supported by Mr Grevy, succeeded in imposing his will upon certain more enterprising members of the cabinet. The attitude assumed by M. M. Waddington and Grevy was the more remarkable as a like proposition was made to Italy and the refusal of the two pacific statesmen prevented the conclusion of a triple alliance. Prince Gortschakoff, not to be discouraged, appealed then to the Orleanists and Bonapartists. At this juncture Prince Bismarck was informed of what passing at Paris, and immediately set to work to outflank his ancient Russian rival, and the result was the conclusion of the decisive treaty known as the Austro-German protocol.

THE COMMITTEE of management of the Bethune Girls' School, enquired of the Government of Bengal at the instance of Miss D'Abrew of Bankipore whether an Eurasian girl can be admitted in the institution which the late Mr. Bethune founded for Hindu girls. The Lieutenant Governor declining to pass any definite order on the case has left the question to the decision of the Committee.

DR. K. MCLEOD, the Health-officer of Calcutta has furnished a report on the new disease called pa-foolah and which in Madras and Ceylon is known by the name of Beri-beri. The disease is said to have prevailed in Midnapore in 1876; it broke out in the southern Suburbs of Calcutta during the rains of 1877, and it spread over a larger area of the same suburbs and in some villages to the east of Calcutta in 1878. It appeared in Dacca in January and Februry 1879 and also in Cachar, Sylhet and Assam Proper. It broke out during the rains and subsided in cold weather. In Calcutta its ravages and extension were less wide. The mortality from the disease in Calcutta was 51, in the Suburbs 163. The symptoms of the disease are swelling of the limbs, fever, bowel-complaint, burning and pain in the affected limbs, shortness of breathing and cough, and palpitation in all cases. In cases of average severity the duration of the disease is two months. In fatal cases great disturbance of respiration and circulation have been described and death has been generally sudden.

THERE WERE 230 deaths in Calcutta during the week ending 20th March, of which 23 were from cholera, 8 from small-pox, 74 from fever, 22 from bowel-complaints, 3 from suicide, 14 from pthisis and asthma, 18 from tetanus and the rest from other causes. Ten children were still-born and eight persons died from old age. Amongst non-Asiatics and mixed races the deaths were 10.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications and periodicals:—1. Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal vol. XLVIII. No. IV. Part I. 1879. 2. The Vernacular Press of India. By Roper Lethbridge (Reprinted from the Contemporary Review for March 1880). 3. The Legal Companion Vol. VIII. No. 2 for February, 1880. 4. Lyttonia or Poems in Bengali Vol II. By Adharlal Sen, B. A. 5. Life of Matsini in Bengali based on his Autobiography. By Jogendranath Banerjea, M. A. 6. Messrs. John Dickson and Co's monthly price list of printing paper, cards &c. for March, 1880. 7. Paricharika, a Bengali monthly for Chaitra, 1286 B. E. Vol. II. No. II. 8. Bombay Almanac for Suk 1802 published by Atmaram Kanhoba.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London, March 22nd.—Mr. Parnell has arrived at Queenstown. Lady Roberts has arrived home from India. The Chinese Government has ordered twenty million cartridges from manufacturers in the United States.

23rd.—In the House of Lords a conversation took place relating to affairs in Afghanistan. Lord Cranbrook said that he was unable to state at present the policy of the Government, and he also said that no arrangement had been come to with Russia or Persia regarding Herat; the importance of which, he said, was exaggerated, although in certain circumstances its annexation by Persia might be desirable, but not dangerous. Colonel Synge, who was captured by Brigands at Salonica, has been released.

25th.—The *Times* expects there will be an equal balance of parties in the next Parliament. Lieutenant General William Charles Forrest has been appointed Colonel of the 8th Hussars. Lieutenant General Sir Arnold Kemball has been appointed a General.

24th.—A Royal Proclamation dissolving Parliament was issued to-day. It expresses thanks for the support accorded to the policy of the Government, the whole object of which has been to defend the Empire and secure peace. It states that the foreign relations of the country are friendly, and favorable to the maintenance of tranquility in Europe, and concludes by hoping for a speedy settlement of Afghanistan.

Berlin March 23.—At a Banquet given in honor of the Emperor William's birth-day, His Majesty, in proposing the toast of the Czar, said he counted firmly on the maintenance and consolidation of good relations between Russia and Germany.

Paris March 21st.—Hartman denies having made a confession that he was the principal author of the Moscow attempt on the Czar's life.

Aden March 19th.—News has been received that the Grand Sheriff of Mecca was assassinated by a Kabuli fanatic at Jeddah on the 14th instant. The assassin was arrested.

London, March 24th—The B. I. S. N. Co's steamer *Almora*, from Calcutta &c., arrived here this afternoon.

Paris, March 24th.—The issue by the French Government of decrees dissolving the Society of Jesuits in France, and expelling its foreign members, is imminent.

London, March 27th.—Prince Leopold will shortly visit Canada and the United States. Russia will place an army corps of observation on the frontier of Kuldja.

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

(210, Bow-Bazar Street.)

LECTURE by Babu Tara Prasanna Roy on Wednesday, the 31st March at 4½ P. M.

Subject: Ozone.

Digitized with financial assistance from the National Archives of India on 07 August, 2017

LECTURE by the Very Rev. Father Lafont, S. J., C. I. E., on Thursday, the 1st April at 7½ P. M.

Subject: Stringed Instruments.

LECTURE by Babu Tara Prasanna Roy on Saturday, the 3rd Inst., at 3 P. M.

Subject: Sodium and its Compounds.

The Hindoo Patriot

MONDAY, MARCH 29, 1880.

MR. FAWCETT ON INDIAN FINANCE.

I

PROFESSOR FAWCETT's three remarkable and lucid essays on Indian Finance, which appeared in the *Nineteenth Century* last year, have now been reprinted in the form of a small volume, with some introductory remarks. In these remarks Mr. Fawcett shows the importance of placing the present system of controlling the finances of India on a satisfactory and sound basis. The reader need not be told that no living Englishman has laboured more earnestly in the cause of the reform of Indian finance than the author of the three essays, which have now been republished. Mr. Fawcett rightly holds "that in order permanently to place the finances of India on a sound basis it will be necessary to effect some important changes in her present system of financial administration." He proceeds:—"It will now be generally admitted that when the Government of India was transferred from the Company to the Crown, many safeguards for economy were swept away, and the substitutes which took their place have proved to be comparatively ineffective. It was perhaps impossible at the time the transfer took place to foresee many of the defects of the new system of Government which was then introduced. As, however, more than twenty years have now elapsed since the commencement of this new system of administration, the time has, I think, arrived when great good would be likely to result if the Act of 1858, by which the transfer of the Government of India from the Company to the Crown was effected, and the amending Acts which have been subsequently passed, were subjected to a careful Parliamentary enquiry. Among the many reasons that may be urged in favour of such an inquiry, it may be mentioned that the experience of the past has shown that it is in the highest degree desirable that Indian affairs should be periodically investigated. In the days of the Company such an investigation was insured at regular intervals, because the Charter of the Company from which it derived its authority, was only granted for twenty years, and each renewal of the Charter was invariably preceded by a Parliamentary inquiry." Mr. Fawcett points out the immense good done by the labours of the three Committees of Inquiry, appointed before the renewal of the Charter in 1813, 1833, and in 1853. After mentioning the names of some of the most distinguished members of whom these three committees were composed, Mr. Fawcett observes:—"If the questions which these various committees had to investigate were at the time considered to be so important as to make it desirable to enlist the services of the most eminent members of the House, I think it can without difficulty be shown that there are now many subjects connected with the Government of India, which not less urgently demand a most careful and thorough Parliamentary inquiry. Although there may be much difference of opinion as to what principles should regulate the Government of India, there can, I believe, be no difference of opinion that those principles, when once determined, ought to be embodied in precise and intelligible legislation." Mr. Fawcett shows that the wording of the Act of 1858, which at the present time regulates the Government of India, is so obscure that in interpreting some of its most important provisions, the highest authorities have arrived at diametrically opposite conclusions. The instances, which he cites, establish beyond the shadow of a doubt the necessity of amending the Government of India Act of 1858. Mr. Fawcett is perfectly justified in holding that there is little hope of effecting any real and permanent improvement in the finances of India, unless some more adequate financial control is provided than that which is furnished by the present system of administration. The two bodies in whom this control was vested by the Act of 1858 were the Council of the Governor-General and the Council of the Secretary of State for India. But both these bodies have been gradually deprived of much of the power which it was supposed they could exercise. To prove this, Mr. Fawcett instances the recent partial remission of the cotton duties. "If," says he, "a Viceroy in a period of severe financial pressure can sacrifice an important branch of revenue in direct opposition to the wishes of a majority of his Council; if a Secretary of State can decide upon a policy which will involve the outlay of millions, and free himself, not only from the control, but from the criticism of his Council, by availing himself of the undefined powers which are vested in him of placing the despatch, which orders the expenditure in the secret department—it is at once obvious that the control which these two Councils can exercise is most inadequate. Few problems in Government can be more difficult than to devise the best means by which the control can be supplied. It is a problem which can only be properly solved after the most careful inquiry, which will enable due consideration to be given to the opinions of those who can speak with the greatest authority and experience. Although, therefore, it would now be premature to attempt to indicate the changes which should be introduced into the Government of India, none, I think, can deny that events are every day happening, which show that the reform of her administration is a matter of such urgent importance that an inquiry as to the best means of effecting it ought to be one of the first subjects to engage the attention of the new Parliament. We hope the new Parliament which assembles in May, will take up this important question, and order a thorough investigation into the present condition of India, now that more than twenty years have elapsed since the commencement of the new system of Indian administration." Unless this is done, the British nation cannot knew how this great dependency has fared under the direct Government of the Crown.

In his first article entitled "The financial condition of India," which was published in the *Nineteenth Century* for February, 1879, Mr. Fawcett, the reader may remember, described the most salient features of the actual financial condition of this country. He pointed out the erroneous conclusions which are frequently arrived at with regard to the amount of the real revenue which is available to meet the ordinary expenses of Government. By carefully distinguishing the net from the gross receipts derived from the various sources of income, he clearly showed that the real revenue of the Empire is only £37,417,569, or much less than 40 millions sterling. The official accounts of Indian revenues placed before the public are calculated to produce the most mischievous and misleading conclusions as to the true position of Indian finance. Those who wish to form a correct opinion as to the actual financial condition of India, should carefully study the figures given by Mr. Fawcett in his first essay on Indian finance. These figures clearly make out that the entire revenues of India, with the exception of the paltry sum of half a million sterling, are derived from the six following sources: land, opium, salt, excise, customs, and stamps. The other items of revenue mentioned in the accounts, such as Post Office, Telegraph, &c.' &c., cannot fairly be considered as sources of revenue. On the contrary, they are rather causes of expenditure, inasmuch as the income derived from them is balanced by a larger expenditure. In order to obtain a revenue of £794,328 from the Post Office, we have to expend £859,783. In the same manner the Telegraph yields £341,227, and costs £573,127. The Post Office and Telegraph do not, therefore, represent revenue, but outlay. The importance of keeping in mind the distinction between the gross and net revenue of India cannot be exaggerated; for, it is only in this way that one can form a correct opinion as to the true position of Indian finance. When we understand that the real revenue which is available to meet the ordinary expenses of Government is much less than 40 millions sterling, we come to realize the actual state of things we have to deal with.

The financial position of the Government of India will be understood when it is carefully borne in mind that with a comparitively stationary revenue of 37½ millions sterling, it has to meet a rapidly increasing expenditure. Mr. Fawcett examines at some length the chief items of Indian revenue and expenditure, with the object of ascertaining, whether, if expenditure increases, it is likely to be met by a corresponding growth of revenue. He proceeds to consider what probability there is of an increase of revenue from land, opium, salt, excise, customs and stamps—the six sources from which almost the entire revenue of India is derived. With regard to the land revenue, from which nearly one-half of the net income of the 37½ millions is obtained, Mr. Fawcett rightly remarks that no material increase in its amount can be expected for a considerable number of years. He writes: "Over a large portion of the most fertile districts of India the land revenue is permanently settled; the Government having commuted the land revenue for a fixed annual rent-charge to be paid in silver. Of the entire land revenue about one-fifth is derived from the permanently settled districts, and therefore, as far as this portion is concerned, it is incapable of any augmentation. In the North-Western Provinces and in other parts of India, what are known as thirty years' settlements prevail. The amount of the land revenue, in these districts is fixed for thirty years, and until the expiration of this period it is of course impossible that there can be any increased assessment. From time to time, as these thirty years' settlements fall in, the land can be re-assessed; but many who are most competent to express an opinion confidently assert that the agricultural classes in India, except in the permanently settled districts, where an increase of the revenue cannot be obtained, are not in a condition to bear a heavier assessment." We are strongly of opinion that the assessment in some of the temporarily settled districts, notably in Madras and Bombay where the Ryotwarry system prevails, should be rather reduced than enhanced It is thus clear that there is no immediate probability of the amount derived from the land revenue being materially increased. The revenue derived from opium has, no doubt, lately shown a large increase; but then there is no knowing to what extent our opium revenue may be affected by the extension of poppy cultivation in China. So far as the salt revenue is concerned, the Government has needlessly sacrificed many lakhs in Bengal by a reduction of the duty, and raised the tax in Madras and Bombay, which will most probably check consumption in those Presidencies. As the salt duty in Madras and Bombay cannot be raised beyond the point to which it has been recently advanced, and as the Government is determined to adhere to the policy of the equalisation of the salt duties throughout India, it would be absurd to reckon upon any increase of revenue from salt. As for customs, this source of revenue is doomed. Sir John Strachey is resolved upon making India a free-port, and should the Conservatives succeed in obtaining a fresh lease of power at the approaching elections, the Indian customs revenue will cease to exist in a very short time. The stamp tax is now as heavy as it can be borne, and an increase of revenue from this source cannot be looked for. The revenue derived from excise is too unimportant to need any mention. It will thus be seen that the Indian revenue is comparatively stationary in amount. Mr Fawcett proves the inelasticity of the growth of the revenue by the extremely slow growth of that revenue during the ten years from 1868 to 1877. The average yield of the net revenue derived from land, opium and salt for the five years from 1868 to 1872 was £30,178,993; while the average of the five years from 1873 to 1877 was £30,650,942. No better evidence can be adduced to prove the inelastic character of our revenue, when we remember that four-fifths of the net entire revenue of the Indian Empire is derived from land, opium and salt.

THE AFFGHAN DEBATE.

THERE was a grand debate in the House of Lords on the Affghan question. The Duke of Argyll led the debate in a highly eloquent speech. His Grace said: "I ask you, my lords, whether there ever was in this world so fierce a light as that which beats upon this Afghan policy of Her Majesty's Government, upon that empty throne, upon that ruined kingdom, upon your own murdered ambassador, upon those desolated valleys, upon those flaming villages, upon the whole country given up to tribal war, to a mutinous soldiery, to anarchy and bloodshed." His Lordship then reviewed the whole history of the Affghan question, and alluded to the Russian correspondence. In quoting a paragraph on the subject from the *Pioneer* His Lordship remarked: "In referring to the following paragraph I must inform those members of the House who may not be aware of the fact that there is a well-known and intimate connexion between the Government of India and the *Pioneer* and that semi-official statements are often made in its columns." Lord Cranbrook denied that the *Pioneer* held the position it did before. His Grace then went on:

Well, General Roberts writes a despatch to the Viceroy, in which he gives his grounds for thinking that the Ameer was thrown into the hands of Russia since 1873; but he does not pretend that there are any papers. He says that the unfortunate Prince, Yakoob Khan, after his abdication, when he was accused of being an accomplice in the murder of Major Cavaguari, and when he may be said to have had a rope round his neck, told him, General Roberts, that his father had been offended since 1873. Your lordships will judge of the value of a statement made by a man under such circumstances; and I have no doubt that they have no documentary evidence to show. At all events, I challenge the Government to produce this correspondence. I myself am not wholly without information from India, and it is possible that my information may be as accurate as that of the Government. My information is to the effect that these documents do not support the accusations against the Ameer, and I challenge the Government to produce them. It has been said that they cannot be produced because their production would give offence to Russia. But in these Blue-books several documents which must be most offensive to Russia have been published. I frankly say I shall not believe the account of these documents unless I see the documents themselves. It is quite possible that Russia may have been intriguing for a long time, and it is possible that the Ameer may have been in communication with Russia; but I wish to see the evidence, and I am the more confirmed in this wish by the way in which you use documents to which I am able to refer.

His Grace is no Russophobist and thus concluded:

We have there 150 millions of people—races which are faithful to us. We have a maritime position on each side. We can readily pour troops into India—such troops, that is to say, as we have to pour,—and we have a railway system which is completed to the frontier. Well, on the other hand, what is the character of Russia? What is the character of this Central Asian Empire of which you are so jealous and afraid? It is a country containing a few scattered races—valleys cultivated more or less and separated by hundreds of miles of desert. Why, from the Oxus to Merv the distance is 170 miles, 150 miles of which is sand. These are the impediments to military operations in Central Asia. No European army, no Eastern army could traverse that country with less than one baggage animal to two men. Then there is this further consideration—namely, that we have really no right to a monopoly of empire in the East. Russia has an Asiatic Empire older than our own. She is by nature an Asiatic Power. Russia has a legitimate field of operations in Central Asia. Within my own recollection we have annexed to our Indian Empire upwards of 30 millions of people—probably six or seven times the entire population of Central Asia from the Caspian to the Wall of China. Russia, I say, has a legitimate field of operations there. What does Sir Henry Rawlinson say in the Blue-book before your lordships to say whether it will enable your Lordship to expect that Russia should stand the existence of a Power in Central Asia which renders commerce impossible, and why we should go cap in hand to the Emperor of Russia and say "Oh, do, for Heaven's sake, tell us you are not going to Merv." Why should he not go to Merv? Do you hold that the whole of Central Asia should be kept for your sake? What says Sir Henry Rawlinson?—"If Merv is conquered by Russia, trade will prosper, man stealing will be suppressed, cultivation will be increased, and the condition of the people will be improved." (Hear, hear.) What my lords, happened the other day? You were told we had got an assurance from the Emperor of Russia that he was not going to Merv, and the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs came down and, in a transport of delight, announced the intelligence to the House of Commons. The Emperor, when he heard of this, sent for our Ambassador and said to him, "What I stated was, not that I would not go to Merv, but that I did not intend to go there just now. ("Hear, hear," and a laugh.) Does England, I ask your lordships, occupy a dignified position in reference to the advances of Russia in Central Asia—advances which you may depend she will make! Well, but we are asked "What is our policy!" I say it is to revert as far as your blunders will permit to the policy pursued 40 years ago.

Lord Cranbrook rather warmly answered the Duke, but His Lordship did not say anything new. He simply reiterated his former statements as regards the past, and as regards the future he said, "we have taken up a position for the maintenance of our border in India, we have taken it up irrevocably, and though the provisions of the Treaty of Gandamack may have perished the principles of the treaty remain, as has been said in the Speech from the Throne, and by those principles we mean to stand." His Lordship thus defended the Viceroy: "The noble duke used strong language and quoted the ninth Commandment against the Viceroy of India, who is absent from this House. (Hear, hear.) Perhaps a year or two hence that noble lord may have an opportunity of meeting the noble duke face to face, and I think it would have been better if the noble duke had waited, and not thrown out those charges against a man placed in a position of the greatest difficulty." Lord Northbrook made a vigorous speech in defence of the policy of the former Government of India. He gave his own interpretation of past treaties and said: "my interpretation of those treaties was such that in those circumstances I thought it would be wrong to use any compulsion to force the Ameer to receive them. The contention of the noble duke was that force was employed. Now, what is compulsion, and what is not? Is it compulsion to tell the Ameer that if he does not do what is wanted the protection of the British Government will be withdrawn? If that is compulsion, that was done. Is it compulsion to withdraw every promise of protection that has been given to the Ameer by former Viceroys in the most solemn terms? If that is compulsion, that also has been done. However, the noble Viscount says that no compulsion has been used to wards Shere Ali." And Lord Northbrook was perfectly right. His Lordship thus commented on the treaty of Gundamack:

Cessions of Afghan territory were insisted upon from Yakoob in spite of his almost pathetic appeals to the generosity of, to use his own phrase, the "strong and grand British Government." Any cession of territory is notoriously unpopular in Afghanistan, and the acceptance by Yakoob of our terms in this particular must greatly have weakened his position at Cabul. I know, my lords, that the territory in question was considered by Her Majesty's Government to be desirable in order to strengthen the north-western frontier of India. I will observe upon those arrangements that I think it was right to retain complete control over the Afridi tribes, so as to secure the command of the Khyber Pass, but this involved no cession of Afghan territory. We have been furnished with no opinions from the Commander-in-Chief or other military authorities in India with regard to the territorial arrangements of the Treaty of Gandamak. Pending any further reasons which may be forthcoming, those arrangements appear to me either to be of no advantage in themselves or of no advantage sufficient to counterbalance the serious disadvantage that they weakened our moral and political position in Afghanistan. (Hear, hear) After the conclusion of the Treaty of Gandamak I think that the Government of India were ill-advised in sending a British Embassy to Cabul so soon. The arrival of the Embassy, the announcement that Yakoob Khan was about to visit the provinces of Afghanistan, accompanied by the British Envoy, and that he was to pay his respects to the Viceroy at Calcutta in the winter, were just the things which were most likely to rouse the apprehensions of the people of Afghanistan—jealous as all mountaineers are, of their independence—to strengthen the fanatical party opposed to the British alliance, and to weaken the position of the Ameer. I am satisfied that the wise course would have been not to have insisted upon any cessions of Afghan territory at Gandamak, and, while reserving the right to send British officers as envoys or residents into Afghanistan, to have waited until Yakoob had more effectually established his authority in Cabul before using that right.

Regarding Russian intrigues His Lordship said:

My lords, in my opinion no Russian intrigues are likely to have any effect upon the people of Afghanistan. Those who apprehend this judge from what they have seen of Russian influence in European Turkey, but forget that while in the one case there was a population of the same religion and race as the Russians, in the other the people differ from the Russians in race, religion, and habits. (Hear, hear.) If it be said that Russian intrigues will be and have been used, not with the people of Afghanistan, but with the ruler of the country, I answer that undoubtedly such intrigues may arise—it is impossible to guarantee the good faith and friendliness of all Afghans. (Hear, hear.) The real question is whether such intrigues are likely to do us any serious injury, and how they can best be met. I read in the Indian papers the other day the story, which it seems the noble Viscount believes, of an agreement said to have been made between Shere Ali Khan and Russian agent for the invasion of India. Probably, like most such stories, it has no foundation in fact; but I wish to observe that to one who knows anything of the Afghan power such an idea is simply ridiculous. The regular troops of Afghanistan have never been able to hold their own against our troops in the field, and if they ventured into the plains of India they would be swept away like chaff before the wind. The real strength of the Afghan consists in their irregular levies, which are formidable in their own country, but useless for purposes of attack beyond it. My lords, it is a popular error which is worth correcting that Afghanistan is our immediate neighbour in the north-west. That is not so. Our neighbours, for the most part, are tribes either entirely independent of the Ameer of Afghanistan or yielding him only a nominal allegiance. No Russian intrigues are likely to affect these tribes if they are dealt with firmly and considerately by us. I well remember once having to consult the principal officers in the Punjab on the question whether our north-western frontier would be disturbed if the Ameer of Afghanistan were known to be unfriendly; and they told me that they did not think it would make any serious difference in the conduct of the tribes. The experience of the last four years has shown that they were right. (Cheers.) Any interference of Russian officers in Afghanistan would be very unpopular among the people. The Government of India have assured us that "all the national sentiments and prejudices" of the Afghans were opposed to the intimacy of Shere Ali Khan with Russia in 1878; and, as was the case with him, a ruler who introduced Russian officers into his country would assuredly endanger the stability of his position. One thing at least, my lords, is clear—that it would be of no advantage to us that we should invade the country whose ruler we might suspect of intrigues. To do this would exchange the temporary inconvenience of the faithlessness of an individual for the real evil of the hostility of a nation.

Lord Northbrook's speech was by far the most important. Several other speakers followed and the debate was wound up by the Premier. Lord Beaconsfield did not make any revelations regarding the future policy of the Government beyond this statement that England is determined to keep under her control the gates of India. His Lordship said: "We obtained the gates of our Indian Empire, they are in our possession, and I trust the hour will never arrive when they will not be in the possession of this country. We have attained our object. We are in military command of the country; we have most of its strong places in our possession. "But" says the noble lord, "if you have attained your object, why not leave the country?" I differ, however, from the noble lord. We cannot leave the country now, because it would, indeed, be a stain upon our honour if we left the country in a state of turbulence and confusion." But what does our Government mean to do? That is the question we wish to know, but Lord Beaconsfield did not deign to answer it.

MR. ROPER LETHBRIDGE ON THE VERNACULAR PRESS ACT.

MR. ROPER Lethbridge, the Press Commissioner of India on furlough, has contributed an article to the *Contemporary Review* on the Vernacular Press of India. In a foot-note the writer says: "It is perhaps right to mention that this paper, though written by one who has been officially connected with the Indian Vernacular Press, carries with it no official authority or sanction whatever. The writer was for many years editor of the only Indian Quarterly, the *Calcutta Review* and was, in that capacity, intimately associated with the whole Indian Press, English as well as Native, on entirely unofficial ground. He is at present relieved from official duties, being on furlough; and ventures to hope that a humble contribution to the history of an important public question, from one whom experience and association ought to have taught something of its true bearings, may not be unacceptable to the British public." Technically an officer on furlough is relieved of his "official duties," but he is not divested of his official position. Mr. Lethbridge cannot therefore justly claim full freedom from official responsibility in the paper he has written on the Vernacular Press. He was the official adviser of the Viceroy in Press matters, and whatever he may now write unofficially cannot but be taken as his opinion which would have doubtless been given officially, if he had been called upon to express it in his official capacity. But this does not matter much. We are quite willing to receive all that can be said in defence of the policy of the Viceroy in respect of the Press law, and our opinion, which is condemnatory of it, is the more strengthened when we find that the most skilful defender of that policy cannot by any means justify it. We need not go into the history of the Vernacular Press of India, of which a sketch has been given by Mr. Lethbridge. Its development is a glorious product of British rule in India, but Mr. Lethbridge does not take a sufficient note of that fact. He seems to think that English-educated natives do not contribute to the Vernacular papers; this is a mistake. Indeed, the Vernacular Press in Bengal has derived its importance since English-educated natives have joined its ranks. Many of our educated natives are on the staff of the principal Vernacular papers in Bengal. It is also not correct to say that until lately the Vernacular papers were sectarian and not political. Some of the trenchant political articles came from the pen of Gourisunkur Bhattacharjee, editor of the *Bhaskur*, which were admired by such a great

authority on Indian politics,as John Clarke Marshman, Father John of Serampore. But let that pass.

Regarding press legislation in India, Sir Charles Metcalfe's Act which was in force from 1835 to 1878, was ushered into existence by Lord Macaulay in the following words :—"Should it be adopted, every person who chooses will be at liberty to set up a newspaper without applying for a previous permission, but no person will be able to print or publish sedition or calumny without imminent risk of punishment." In contradistinction to the old law, Mr. Lethbridge says :

An important and distinctive feature of the new law obviously is, that it is preventive rather than punitive : an offender is always to be allowed a *locus penitentiæ* if haply he will be wise enough to take warning and to reform. From a practical point of view, perhaps the greatest difference between the two laws was to be found in the fact, acknowledged by all that the old law had become virtually unworkable, and consequently inoperative. And this state of affairs was especially undesirable at a time of great political excitement induced by current events in Turkey in Afghanistan and in Central Asia—a time when the great developement of the Vernacular Press had rendered it, for good or evil, an educational agency of the highest political importance.

The new law is in every way more tender and liberal towards the vernacular press than the old one was. In its letter it is more tender ; for it provides for the most ample warning being given to all offenders, whereas the action of the old law could only reach a misguided editor by the thunderbolt of a State prosecution, descending from a clear sky, and involving (if successful) the irretrievable ruin of a felon's doom. Under the new law, only the most perverse and reckless can be touched at all ; and even for such, the punishment is restricted to pecuniary penalties—a restriction that will be found as reasonable as it is merciful, when we remember how much of such seditious writing may be ascribed to the ignorance and folly of the writers, and to the long impunity enjoyed under an unworkable law.

In practice, also, the new law is infinitely more merciful than the old. Under the old conditions, a mischievous or reckless writer was actually tempted, by the state of the law, into sedition that might at any time involve him in absolute ruin ; for he was well aware that a State prosecution even if it should bring ruin on himself, would certainly at the same time cause the Government an immense amount of anxiety and embarrassment ; it would arouse intense excitement throughout the land, kindle into a flame every smouldering cinder of discontent, and attract to the persecuted editor the sympathy of every disaffected or discontented soul among the warm-hearted and excitable millions of the people. Such a prospect offered, to all such foolish or misguided writers, a very strong hope indeed of absolute impunity ; with just the bare possibility of a patriot's martyrdom, sufficiently remote to commend it to the "spirit of braggadocio" so aptly alluded to by the Maharaja Jotindra Mohan Tagore, the Native Member of Council who supported the present law. No such martyrdom is promised by the commonplace penalty of the new Act, a mere fine. And the reasonable certainty that such a commonplace penalty will be the result of gross misconduct, is likely to be a much more efficient deterrent than any distant prospect of martyrdom, however ruinous.

Nor will any intelligent and impartial critic contend that the checks on the new law are not fully as efficient as those imposed under the old ; though it is true that they are not absolutely obstructive and prohibitive, as the latter had grown to be. The checks on the old law were, *first*, the public scandals and dangers of a State trial ; and *secondly* the very great uncertainty of obtaining a conviction from a jury, who would naturally consider the helplessness of the prisoner, and the frightful results that must occur to him from a conviction. These checks were clearly not *efficient* in regard to the *justice* of the case ; they were merely obstructive, and fatally so. I have already detailed the checks on the present law, derived from the independent investigation of a large number of persons in positions of the greatest responsibility—person of the highest character and the widest experience, acting under the full consciousness that their verdict will be most closely and critically scrutinized by the whole world. Theoretically, doubtless, such checks with all their advantages have not the sacred sanction that is attached to the verdict of a jury ; but practically and as a matter of common sense, it seems clear that this, is (at least for the present) one of the cases in which we must either give up that sacred sanction, or else resign all control over evil-doing most mischievous alike to the Press, to the public, and to the State.

If this is all that Mr. Lethbridge can urge in defence of the Vernacular Press Act it is evident that he has espoused a very weak cause. The great distinction between the old and the new law is that the former secured the broad day-light of a judicial, whereas the latter intervenes the darkness of a Star chamber enquiry, and we are really surprised that as an Englishman, whose birth-right is open and jury trial, Mr. Lethbridge should consider a private official enquiry a sufficient safeguard of the liberty of the subject. He says that the old law was unworkable—had it ever been tried and found wanting ? On the contrary did not the Government fear to a face public trial, because it might recoil on its own head. Was it not this feeling which restrained despots like Sir George Campbell from putting it into force ? Again, did the old law really work mischief ? Surely the British Government in India had never had a harder time than during the dark days of the Sepoy Mutiny, and the old law was for a time suspended and a "Gagging Act" as it was called was passed. But even under the Gagging Act judicial trial was not done away with. And what was the experience of Government in regard to the Native Press in that perilous time of the Mutiny ? It was the English Press, represented by such papers as the *Friend of India* and the *Bengal Hurkaru*, which proved its greatest opponent. The Vernacular Press was active enough then, but it was active in promoting loyalty, in strengthening the hands of Government, and in allaying mistrust, fear and alarm. We regret that Mr. Lethbridge has thought fit to come forward as the champion of the Vernacular Press Act. We regret the more because we do look upon him as a true friend of the Indian Press. We feel thankful to him for the kind words he has said of us, but we are constrained to say that he has sadly mistaken his function by standing forth as the apologist of the most intolerent and indefensible measure of the present Government of India.

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENTS IN THE NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES.

We have always and strongly objected to agricultural experiments in estates under the Court of Wards at the expense of Wards. The system of making agricultural experiments at the expense of Wards was introduced in Bengal, by Sir George Campbell, and in the North-Western Provinces, by Sir John Strachey. Both these provincial rulers thought that Government could not make a better use of the surplus of the estates under the management of the Court of Wards than to devote it to the promotion of improvements in the property by the establishment of model farms and otherwise. The extent to which Sir George Campbell proceeded in this direction must be fresh in the memory of the reader. Enormous sums of money belonging to Wards were spent on so-called improvements. The money was, as a matter of fact, literally thrown away. Sir John Strachey, when Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces, conceived the idea of creating a provincial department of Agricultural and Commerce. In his minute dated November 1874, constituting the new department, he indicated that one of the most important functions of the Director of Agriculture and Commerce in his satrapy would be to promote agricultural reform by making experiments in Court of Wards' estates at the expense of Wards. Sir John Strachey's proposal could not, however, be immediately carried out, as there was no large state then under the management of the Court of Wards in the North-Western Provinces. In these circumstances the death of the Raja of Awa in the Agra district, the owner of the largest zemindary estate in the N. W. P., proved a perfect Godsend to Mr. Buck. The estate was placed under the management of the Court of Wards, and a junior civilian who had been Assistant Settlement Officer in the Agra district was appointed its manager.

A large number of agricultural experiments have been tried in the Awa Estate under the direction of the Director of Agriculture and Commerce, N. W. P. and Oudh ; and the papers connected with the subject have been published in a recent issue of the Allahabad *Government Gazette*. Mr. Buck gives a minute account of what has been done ; but we refrain from entering into details as they will not interest the general reader Mr. Allan Hume, Junior Member of the Board of Revenue, N. W. P., however, avails himself of the opportunity afforded by Mr. Buck's note to discuss the general principles involved in the question of agricultural reform. In doing so, he remarks :—

It is no small additional merit, I may add, that it incidentally exhibits in the clearest light the *raison d'etre* of the Agricultural Department of the North-Western Provinces, and quite unconsciously, though triumphantly, vindicates this from the thoughtless strictures to which it has in recent times not unfrequently been subjected.

No encomiums, however eloquent, could speak so highly for this as do the glimpses we are here afforded of the department *at work*, of the nature of the difficulties with which it is grappling, and of the spirit in which it encounters them.

Strange as it may appear at the present epoch, opinion, even amongst experienced officials, still seems to be far from unanimous as to the feasibility of effecting any appreciable improvement in Indian agriculture ; and officers even in the highest positions, are found, who not only express doubts as to the success of any possible attempts in this direction, but who actually, pre judging the question, unhesitatingly condemn these as an unjustifiable waste of money !

On the other hand, there are many, and, indeed, I believe a daily increasing majority, who not only hold it to be our plain duty, alike to the people and to the State, to make these attempts, but who entertain no shadow of doubt as to their inevitable ultimate success, if only they be guided by knowledge and conducted with sound judgment.

To me, therefore, it is most gratifying to have thus an opportunity of showing, it were in practice, the kind of measures that we believe to be likely to prove beneficial, and the manner in which we think that these should be approached.

True, Awa is but a tiny spot, a scarcely perceptible speck on our vast empire ; but it is none the less fairly typical, as regards soil, climate, population, and agricultural conditions generally, of more than half of the North-Western Provinces (to say nothing of other parts of the country) ; and the tentative measures now (and hereafter, as experienc gained, *to be*) proposed for Awa, will be equally applicable to enormous tracts yielding a land revenue of several millions sterling. Any successes here achieved will have been virtually established for this entire area ; and as for the method there can be only one true method ; and if we are correct in this here, it is applicable to the whole empire.

In spite of what Mr. Allan Hume says in praise of the department of Agriculture and Commerce in the North-Western Provinces, we think that that department has yet to vindicate its existence. What have, Mr. Buck and his Assistant, we ask, done during the past five years to promote agricultural reform ? We are ready to admit that they have done something in the way of securing an accurate registration of trade ; but so far as agricultural reform is concerned, they have up to the present moment done literally nothing. Mr. Buck's Patwari and Canoongo code is certainly a work which cost him immense thought and labour ; but of what practical use are elaborate rules for the selection and training of officials, who draw the magnificent salary of Rs. 10 or 12 a month ? No amount of rules and regulations can secure the honesty and efficiency of Patwaris and Canoongoes, unless and until their position has been improved and they are recruited from a much better and useful class of men. For all practical purposes the celebrated Patwari and Canoongo rules might not have been framed, and Mr. Buck spared the labour and trouble which the work must have entailed upon him. The experiments made at the Cawnpore Model Farm have as yet done no good to the agriculture of the neighbourhood. Mr. Allan Hume probably thinks that what the N. W. P. Department of Agriculture has done for ploughs is quite sufficient, to justify its existence during the past five years ; but in reviewing his pamphlet on *Agricultural Reform in India* in these columns, we have, we trust, conclusively shown, that Mr Buck's plough can never be successfully introduced into this country. We should very much like to know how many of those ploughs have been sold, and whether they have been in use anywhere excepting estates under the Court of Wards.

Mr. Allan Hume further remarks :

It is true we cannot *force* civilization, or any of her handmaids, on any people ; but it is possible, by patience and tact, if we do ourselves possess the knowledge, so to put before all we deal with, good and evil in any matter, that many shall inevitably choose the good : and this is all that our supposed State intervention in agriculture has ever aimed at. We advocate no system of State agriculture, we do not propose to cultivate the people's land for them, but only by careful study of local conditions, and by the application, with suitable modifications, of methods throughly approved elsewhere, to evolve improvement in the indigenous practice ; and so put these before all interested in such questions, that they may realize their full scope and verify them for themselves.

If this be not an appropriate and legitimate undertaking for the more enlightened rulers of less enlightened nations we must abandon all scientific conceptions of the functions, of a Government thus situated.

As for those, if there be any such, who honestly disbelieve the possibility of material improvement, and who are ignorant of the thoroughly verified fact that, with improved agriculture (using the word in its widest signification), the great bulk of the land can be made to (and *does* wherever it has been fairly tried) yield from 30 to 70 per cent more than it now does, no *argument* (which postulates a knowledge of facts on both sides) is possible, and we can only urge them to acquire at least some rudimentary acquaintance with the subjects on which they pass judgment.

We do not deny that with scientific agriculture the great bulk of the land in this country can be made to yield much more than it does now. But we must not forget what Sir Ashley Eden has so pertinently pointed out. "The people," he says, "make the most of the resources and opportunities available to them ; they grow crops sufficient not only to support sixty-three millions, but to support the population of less productive, even of more scientifically cultivated countries ; they watch and intelligently follow the markets and vary their crop from

time to time to meet the demand of other countries; hardly an acre of cultivable land is left uncultivated; they are ready to procure *such improved implements and machinery as are suitable to their wants, and within their means.* It is because it sees all this, I say, that the Government of Bengal holds that the people, especially in respect of the cultivation of such crops as rice, jute, tobacco, safflower, &c., which they understand and we don't, are best let alone." Mr. Hume himself, in his pamphlet mentioned above, has distinctly admitted that so far as non-scientific agriculture is concerned the natives of India have nothing to learn from their rulers. Now, the adoption of scientific agriculture is not within the means of the cultivating classes in this country. This fact should be steadily kept in view by the enthusiastic advocates of agricultural reform in India. Lord Mayo very properly remarked in connection with the establishment of model and experimental farms in this country that, it was perfectly useless to teach Natives of India such things as they already knew or such things as they had the means of carrying out in practice. Our ryots who live from hand to mouth and who, speaking generally, have no resources beyond the current harvest, cannot be expected to adopt improved methods of cultivation or in other words scientific agriculture. At any rate, agricultural experiments of doubtful value ought not to be conducted at the expense of Wards. Sir Ashley Eden rightly considers such a course inconsistent with a conscientious performance of the duty of Government as a trustee. In this view every sensible and right-thinking person will concur.

THE JHANSI ZAMINDAR'S RELIEF BILL II.

ACCORDING to Mr. Bazett Colvin, the true cause of the present destitution of the Jhansi Zemindars is not to be found in the revenue system of the country, nor even in the extraordinary calamities which were enumerated in our previous article on this subject. He mentions the principal cause, which to his thinking has plunged the landowners of Jhansi into hopeless debt. Now, what is this cause? Mr. Colvin explains that before the annexation of the province, the tenure of Jhansi was ryotwarry under which the whole agricultural community were responsible for the Government demand. He then goes on to say:—"Under the change of system introduced by the British Government, the community at large was relieved of this liability for the revenue, and the whole burden and responsibility of it was undertaken (in consideration of the grant of proprietory rights) by our new-made proprietors. Now these proprietors constituted only a fraction, though (no doubt) a considerable one, of the entire agricultural community of Jhansi, and this fraction was scarcely superior at all in capital and intelligence to the rest of the cultivating class. It may be questioned whether, under any circumstances, the addition to their means which accrued from the proprietory right would have been sufficient to enable a portion of the people to fulfil engagements on behalf of the whole. But when, in addition to this extension of their responsibility they changed the nature of it and *undertook, in a district with percarious harvests, to pay a fixed sum annually in all years, not a sum varying (as it previously did) with the produce of the year, I think it is certain that they undertook what they could not possibly perform. Sooner or later, the Zemindars must have broken down.* It is no wonder, when war, famine, pestilence and murrain passed over the community in successive waves of calamity, that the zemindars should have been overwhelmed and ruined. In dealing with the difficulties of Jhansi, we must never lose sight, I think, of the fact that our system has greatly diminished the number of persons who were bound to pay the revenue, and, at the same time, added heavily to the burden of it. I think that the present condition of the tenants in Jhansi serves to confirm the probability of this. They cultivate under precisely the same conditions as the landowners. They are exposed to the same losses from failure of rain. They have gone through the same misfortunes. The only point of difference between them and the zemindars is that they are no longer liable to the State for its revenue as they used to be. *In a bad year the tenants do not pay, and the landlords neither can nor dare to proceed to extremities with tenants whom it is not easy to replace. On the other hand, the landowners are between the upper and nether mill-stone. They are crushed between the impossibility of withholding their revenue from the Government above, and the impossibility of exacting their rents from the tenants below.* This difference seems to explain the fact, which is admitted by every body who knows the country, that the ryots of Jhansi are fairly prosperous, whilst the zeminders are almost all beggars. A further confirmation may be found in the state of the villagers in the adjoining territories which belong to the states of Gwalior and Oorcha. They do not differ from the people of Jhansi, except in holding on a ryotwari interest of a zemindari tenure, in the revenue being distributed generally instead of partially among the people, *and in the payment being variable in amount instead of a fixed sum. These people are far from being in the same embarrassed state as the proprietors of Jhansi.* It is possible also that the freedom from distress of the Jhansi pargana, as compared with the other three parganas, may be mainly due to a considerable portion of its area being irrigated, which makes the harvests less precarious and the payment of a fixed sum more possible." The Italics in the passage quoted are ours. The admissions which Mr. Bazett Colvin has made and which we have underlined are significant. They clearly point to the rigidity of the revenue system introduced by the English Government as the true cause of the present hopeless destitution of the Jhansi zemindars. That the zemindari system has been beneficial in other parts of the North-Western Provinces is admitted by Mr. Bazett Colvin. Why, then, has a system which has proved beneficial elsewhere been mischievous in Jhansi? We have no hesitation in saying that if the present rigid mode of collecting the revenue demand had not been adopted, the grant of proprietory rights would not have proved ruinous. It was explained in our first article on this subject that under the Maharatta rule the demand of the Government was not fixed for a term of years but varied with the produce. If the system of raising or lowering the State demand according to the actual outturn of the crops had been continued after the British occupation of Jhansi, the introduction of zemindari tenure into the country would have been as beneficial there as it has been elsewhere. The great mistake which our rulers committed in dealing with Jhansi was not the grant of proprietory rights, but the fixation of the assessment for a number of years. A little reflection would have shown that even with the advantages, which they had derived from the grant of proprietory rights, the Jhansi landowners could never have fulfilled the engagements, into which they had entered about the payment of the Government demand. Mr. Bazett Colvin has graphically described the difficulties of their position. In a bad year they cannot collect any rents from their tenants. They dare not proceed to extremities with the cultivators whom they cannot replace. They must, therefore, go without rents in bad years. But they *must* meet their obligation to the state. The inexorable Government tax-gatherers know no mercy. The *kist* must be paid on the fixed date whether the zemindar has been able to realise any thing from his tenants or not. In such circumstances, what is the poor landowner to do? He has no other resource left than borrowing at usurious rates of interest. It is all very well to denounce the money-lender as a veritable Shylock; but the revenue administration of Jhansi like that of the Deccan would have come to a perfect deadlock long ago if the so-called Shylock had refused the advances. The Jhansi landowners are crushed as Mr. Bazett Colvin happily puts it between the impossibility of witholding their revenue from the Government above and impossibility in exacting their rents from the tenants below. Who, we ask, is responsible for this deplorable state of things? Has not the adoption of the "scientific" method of realizing the revenue demand plunged the Jhansi zemindars into their present hopeless destitution? Had the Maharatta system of varying the revenue with the produce been continued would not the people upon whom proprietory rights were conferred have been able to fulfil the engagement into which they had entered? We should very much like Mr. Bazett Colvin and the supporters of the Jhansi Relief Bill to answer this question. To have expected the Jhansi zamindars to pay a fixed sum annually was to expect a physical impossibility. It is as clear as the sun at noonday that the introduction of a "scientific" revenue system into Jhansi without any regard to its peculiar conditions, has proved its ruin.

The remedy which the Government propose to apply to the evils from which Jhansi has been suffering is nothing new. At one time it was contemplated that the State should buy back the zemindari rights which it had conferred and restore the old ryotwari tenure. This scheme did not, fortunately, find favour with the Government. The plan which has been approved and embodied in Mr. Bazett Colvin's Bill is what is contained in the various Encumbered Estates Act. The Government proposes to dispossess for a time the embarrassed zemindars, to undertake the management of the Encumbered Estates for them, to pay their debts and afterwards to restore their property to them subject to certain conditions. It is needless to say that the Jhansi Relief Bill has been drawn on the lines of the Sindh Encumbered Estates Act, the Broach and Khaira Act, and the Deccan Royts Act. The provisions of the Bill are, indeed, similar to those which have been usually adopted in the case of Encumbered Estates during the past few years. "The most important difference," says Mr. Colvin, "between the Bill which I desire to introduce and other similar measures lies in the manner in which it proposes to deal with an estate after it has been freed from encumberances." He proceeds:—"Supposing the management to have terminated successfully, and the debts to have been paid off, the zemindar will not necessarily be restored to exactly the same position that he occupied before. His rights, if he recovers them, will thence forward be neither transferable nor alienable in any way, but will remain, as now, hereditary. In short, he will be no longer absolute proprietor, but a hereditary tenant holding at a privileged rate." The detailed provisions of the Bill we will discuss on another occasion.

Mr. Bazett Colvin, it is only fair to say, is alive to the importance of modifying the revenue-system of Jhansi. He observes:—"In conclusion, I have only to say that the importance of modifying the revenue system of Jhansi and of adjusting it for the future in some way to the variations in the annual produce of the harvests, has not escaped the attention of the North-Western Provinces Government; and the question, I believe, is now under consideration and discussion. Personally, it seems to me that no scheme for relieving the distress of the proprietors in Jhansi can be permanently successful which does not provide for this. In the oldest settled parts of the North-Western Provinces, where rents have been paid in cash for half a century, there are particular fields and plots of land which no tenant will take at a fixed annual rent, but only on an engagement to pay a certain share of the produce, whatever that produce may be. The reason in such cases is that the yield of those fields from local causes, such as exposure to inundation, diluvion, or the like is so precarious that no one will take a lease of them at a fixed yearly rent. I believe the parts of the country, like Jhansi, which have no irrigation and are dependent for their crops upon the rain from heaven are in a like predicament, and that a fixed revenue for a term of years can never be realised from them (especially when the proprietors are small and needy) unless it be pitched below the due share of the State in average years, and greatly below it in years of prosperity. *The only possible way of securing a fair contribution for the State in such cases is to make the demand vary with the produce.*' The italics are ours. We have little to add to what Mr. Colvin has so well said about the importance of modifying the revenue-system of Jhansi. Every sensible and right-thinking person will admit that the present hopeless des-

titution of the Jhansi zemindars cannot be remedied without adopting the "barbarous" Mahratta system of making the land revenue demand vary with the produce. Mr. Colvin tells us that the question of modifying the revenue-system of Jhansi is now under consideration and discussion; but the reader may rest assured that nothing will come out of this consideration and discussion; if no scheme for relieving the distress of the proprietors in Jhansi can be permanently successful, which does not provide from alteration of the revenue-system, why should not such measures, we ask, be carried out at once? The question has been under discussion for years, and if Government really desires to modify the revenue-system of Jhansi, it should do so at once. But we fear, nothing will be done in this direction. When the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Bill was before the Legislative Council its author, Mr. Hope, and its staunch supporters, the Viceroy and the Finance Minister, dilated upon the importance of altering the revenue system of the Deccan and stated that the Government of Bombay had been requested to take the matter into careful consideration. Sir Richard Temple has since told us that he does not see his way to modifying the revenue system of the Deccan. What has happened in the case of the Deccan will come to pass in the case of Jhansi. When the Bill now before the Legislative Council has once found a place on the statute-book, the Government will no more think of reverting to the "barbarous" system of making the land revenue demand vary with the produce of the harvests. In a country like Jhansi where every thing depends upon the rain from heaven, a fixed assessment for a term of years *must* be ruinous. The Government knows and admit this, yet it will not modify its revenue-system, while it will proceed to confiscate the property of the money-lenders, but for whose help the revenue demand in Jhansi could not have been collected since the famine of 1868-69

THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SURVEY OF WESTERN INDIA.

SOME time ago we had occasion to notice the very unsatisfactory manner in which the Archæological Survey of India had been conducted. Both in quantity and quality the results attained, were, we pointed out, totally incommensurate with the cost incurred. The reports were in arrears, and the cost was over Rs. 68,571, per volume, or about twice as much as that of the mystic codices of the Roman Sibyl. Turning to Western India, we find the work done there to be equally unsatisfactory. The establishment entertained for Bombay includes a Reporter on Rs. 1,000 a month, Mr. Coulson and another European deputy, and several native assistants, draftsmen, photographers &c., which cost a considerable sum. Including travelling charges, pensions, printing, and contingent expenses, the total may be reckoned at Rs. 34,000, per annum. The Survey was started at the beginning of 1874, and to the close of last year the total cost at the above rate may be roughly set down at Rs. 200,000. For this large outlay the public has, up to date, received four volumes in 4to. The first volume comprises 45 pages, which would have made a good-sized article for the Transactions of the Royal Society of Antiquaries, or of some other institution of the kind, to which amateurs contribute their leisure-hour researches; but as a volume by itself it is meagre enough. The second volume comprises 242 pages, of which Mr. Thomas has contributed 62 pages on ancient Indian coins, leaving 180 pages to the credit of the Reporter. The third volume contains 138 pages, of which 84 are from the Reporter, the rest containing translations of inscriptions by Mr. Fleet. The fourth is limited to 111 pages. It contains rough notes, which have been printed, apparently, with a view to help Mr. Fergusson to write a work on the Caves of Ajanta. The necessity for printing these Notes has arisen, we fancy, from a natural dislike of people to read MSS. But whatever the cause, the Notes have been published by Government, and we must give the credit of them to the Reporter. Putting the figures together we get a total of 420 pages as the outcome of an expenditure of Rs. 2,00,000, or at an average Rs. 50,000 per volume, or Rs. 476, per page. There are 226 plates of various kinds in these volumes, and, if we include them in our calculation, the cost per page would be reduced to Rs. 307. To say the least, this is surely an extravagant price to pay for literary work other than the very best, or involving excessive trouble and high intellectual capacity. It might be urged that the plan of lumping the cost of photographs and plates with that of ordinary type-matter is not a fair one, and to meet the objection the amount of the Reporter's salary and travelling charges for the six years, equal to, say, a lac of rupees, should be divided by the 420 pages produced. This will be equal to Rs. 238 per page. Taking the work in another light, we have to divide the 420 pages produced by 6, the numbers of years they have taken to be written and printed, and the result is 70 pages per annum. To do the Reporter not the shadow of an injustice we must even once again recast our calculations. According to the arrangement made by the Government of Bombay the Reporter is required to devote six months to travelling and taking notes, and the other six months of the year to elaborating those notes into a well-digested report, and passing the same through the press. With a view to secure the highest literary and scientific excellence it has been, moreover, arranged that the task of digestion and elaboration should be effected, not in the grilling climate of India, but amidst the delightful associations of the Reporter's highland home, in the society of the Savans of modern Athens. Thus the Reporter works in India for six months, and spends the other six months of the year at Edinburgh, and the elaboration of his notes into 70 pages costs the rate-payers of India Rs. 6,000 a year. The 70 pages produced would barely fill two issues of the *Patriot*. The "Sub" on the staff of a daily paper, who has to work on Rs. 300 to 400 a month, would be unworthy of his post if he failed to write and print 70 pages a month. It may be that the Reporter has written more, and his contributions now fill the pigeon-holes of the Bombay Secretariat; but the public can judge only from what has been placed before it.

To turn, however, from quantity to quality. Whatever may be said to the contrary by the persons who have been instrumental in transmogrifying a school-master from the Doveton College at Calcutta into a professor of Archæology, we cannot help observing that the quality of the work is by no means commensurate either with the original object of the Survey, or with the cost it entails. In the memorable minute of the late Lord Canning on the archæological survey of India, its objects have been defined to be the "investigation and placing on record for the instruction of future generations, many particulars that might still be rescued from oblivion, and throw light upon the early history of England's great dependency;" and this was to be accomplished by "an accurate description—illustrated by plans, measurements, drawings or photographs, and by copies of inscriptions,—of such remains as most deserve notice, and with the history of them so far as it may be traceable, and a record of the traditions that are retained regarding them." Lord Canning wrote that it was not possible for the Government to preserve all the monuments of ancient India, but it would be easy to secure such descriptions as would rescue from oblivion the true character of the remains, and to produce in the mind of readers the image of the originals. The Reporter has failed to grasp the spirit of these instructions. His descriptions are meagre, his illustrations ill-selected and inexpressive, and his deductions whenever attempted, and that not often, fallacious. Of traditions as preserved by the people or in their literature, he has produced but little, and that little of no worth. His, aim has, apparently, been to produce tourist's guides, or Murray's Hand-books, which might supply the names, dates, and just so much of description as would suffice to rouse, but not to satisfy, curiosity, and the antiquarian looks in vain to derive any substantial benefit from the costly volumes. Between temples, caves, sculptures, paintings, and inscriptions, no less than four thousand objects have been described, and their descriptions have been condensed in 420 pages, each having for its share at an average about one-eighth of a page, and this is totally inadequate for the the purpose of realising in one's mind the true character of the objects described. Even for a tourist's guide the descriptions produced are, to our thinking, not quite what they should have been. It is not given to every person to write like Bishop Heber, and we do not therefore complain that the Reporter's descriptions have nothing of the living grace and vivid picturesqueness of the good Bishop's style; but they fail in more important particulars,—those of clearness and precision, and these at Rs. 238 per page the public had a right to expect. Of inscriptions the Reporter is apparently not personally able to do any thing, for all the inscriptions published by him have been translated by Messrs. Fleet, Buhler, and Eggeling. In his first report he complained that he had not at his disposal the services of a Pundit to assist him. The want was subsequently supplied by the appointment of Pundit Bhagawanlal Indraji; but that worthy, it seems, has been obliged to limit his exertions to the mechanical duty of taking copies and stampages, leaving the task of reading and translation to others. This is an unsatisfactory arrangement, and cannot result in that accuracy which is essential to the rendering of ancient records.

To the volume on the Ajanta Caves the Pundit has contributed a note "on the modern Buddhism and mythology of Nepal." The matter contained in it called to our mind a vivid picture of what we had before read in Mr. Hodgson's volume on Buddhism. We are willing to admit that a second description must, in words and illustrations, bear a close resemblance to the first, and no theory of deliberate misappropriation need be entertained to account for the similitude; but the necessity for the second attempt under the guise of an original contribution to the public stock of knowledge is open to question. At least, an acknowledment of what had been done by the renowned antiquarian and scholar who has contributed so largely in bringing to public notice the history and religion of Nepal, would have been graceful. Seeing that the language of the note is mainly, if not solely, due to the Reporter, and not to the Pundit, we think the Reporter might have with propriety remembered the ordinary rules of literary amenity. Perhaps it was supposed that that scholar whose works were indented upon, was in the enjoyment of his nirvana, and would not perceive the absence of any acknowledgment. If so, it was a mistake. We are glad to have to say that the venerable savan still lives in happy retirement, loved and adored by all who can appreciate sterling worth, and we cordially wish him a prolonged and happy life.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY paid a visit to the Bengal Council on Thursday last. The Cess Bill was then under discussion. There was an animated debate on the section providing for the application of The Public Works Cess. A native member urged that the proceeds of the cess should be applied to famine purposes in conformity with the declarations made repeatedly in the Imperial and local Councils. Mr. Mackenzie answered him. After hearing these two speakers the Viceroy retired.

WE UNDERSTAND that His Excellency the Viceroy will visit the Calcutta Public Library on Tuesday, the 30th instant, at 5-15 P. M.

WE HEAR that Mr. C. T. Buckland goes out of the Bengal Council by rotation, and that Mr. Horace Cockerell, Senior Secretary to the Government of Bengal, succeeds him.

WE ARE GLAD to learn that Maharani Shurnomoye gave a kind reception to Pundit Rungacharya Satabadan, whose wonderful feats of memory we described in these columns some weeks ago. She held a grand meeting at which the Pundit exhibited his feats. She has rewarded him with a gold medal, a suit of silk clothes and Rs. 300 cash. The following is the inscription on the medal:

Maharanee Surnomoye C. I. of Cossimbazar,
Awarded to Pundit Sree Runga Charya for his best Sanskrit knowledge and most wonderful power of memory 1880.

The Pundit also exhibited his feats at the house of Dr. Ramdas Sen, Berhampore.

THE Hon'ble Rivers Thompson, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Irish Famine Fund, has addressed the following letter to Maharani Shurnomoyee in acknowledgment of her handsome contribution in aid of the Fund :

DEAR MADAM, I write on behalf of the Committee appointed in Calcutta for the relief of the distress in Ireland to acknowledge the receipt of your two contributions of Rs. 4000 each towards that object : and to thank you in their name for your munificent liberality. With the approval of the Committee it has been decided to send a copy of your letter of the 25th February to Her Grace the Duchess of Marlborough and to the Rt. Hon'ble Lord Mayor of Dublin. We think it right that the kindly motives which have prompted your noble generosity for the succour of the suffering in Ireland should be known to those who are prominently interested at home in measures for the relief of that distress.

I remain
Yours faithfully
(Sd). Rivers Thompson
Prest. of the Committee.

To
Maharani Surnomoye, Member of the Imperial Order of the Crown of India, Cossimbazar.

THE ENGLISHMAN states that Mr. G. M. Goodricke, Assistant Collector of Customs, will be appointed successor to Mr. Mackenzie, Collector of Calcutta. Mr. Goodricke will not pecuniarily gain by the transfer, but his appointment it is stated will enable the Government to effect an immediate saving of Rs. 1000 per month by doubling up the offices of Assistant Collector and Head Appraiser. We can hardly believe this statement. What experience has Mr. Goodricke had in the revenue line, which would justify his appointment? Unless it be assumed that the office of Collector of Calcutta requires no special qualifications, the appointment of Mr. Goodricke would be a gross jobbery, to which we cannot believe Sir Ashley Eden will lend himself. We hear that Mr. Maclean, the Customs Collector, has made this proposal in order to effect a saving in his own office. But the plea of economy in the Customs office is no good excuse for impairing the efficiency of the Collectorate of Calcutta. Could any thing be more absurd than that an appraiser of goods should be appointed the chief revenue officer of Calcutta, whose duty it shall be to interpret the stamp law, to administer the excise, and to superintend license tax operations?

THE British Indian Association, we are glad to learn, have set on foot subscriptions for the payment of Mr. Fawcett's election expenses. The Committee have issued the following circular on the subject :

News has been received from England that the Conservatives are strongly opposed to Mr. Fawcett's election, and it is feared that he may be unseated. As Mr. Fawcett's supercession would be a national calamity for India, it is proposed to raise subscription for the payment of his election expenses. In 1875 the British Indian Association raised a sum for this purpose and after paying for some presents to Mrs. Fawcett, the residue Rs. 4000 is now in the hands of some Trustees in England for the payment of his future election expenses. This amount will now be available, but it will not be sufficient for the purpose. It is therefore proposed to raise a further subscription and to place the money that may be raised at his disposal as early as possible. Believing that it will not be to our credit or interest to see Mr. Fawcett beaten in the election, the Committee of the British Indian Association solicit your contribution in aid of the Fund for the payment of his election expenses. As time is pressing, and as payment must be made by telegraph, (the elections will commence immediately after the Easter holidays) I solicit your early attention to this appeal.

In response to this circular a movement has been made in Bombay. The Behar Landholders, Association we learn have also been moved on the subject. We hope the East Bengal Landholders' Association and other national Associations will come forward and raise subscriptions. The names of the following subscribers have already been received by the British Indian Association :

		Rs.
Hon'ble Maharaja Jotendromohun Tagore Bahadur, C. S. I.	...	500
Maharanee Surnomoyee C. I.	...	500
Maharaja Romulkrishna Bahadur	...	100
Maharaja Narendrakrishna Bahadur	...	100
Raja Promothonath Roy, Degaputty	...	250
Babu Joykissen Mookerjea	...	300
,, Kallykissen Tagore	...	200
Kumar Poornochunder Singh, Paikpara	..	300
,, Debender Mullick	...	100
Babu Doorgachurn Law	...	100
,, Chunderkant Mookerjea	...	50
,, Obhoychurn Goho	..	50
,, Jodoolal Mullick	...	50
,, Grishchunder Das, Rai Bahadur	...	25
,, Sagore Dutt	...	25
,, Sreenath Roy	..	25
Raja Samasunker Roy Chowdry	...	25
Babu Tarrucknath Poramanick	...	25
Nawab Mir Mohamed Ali	...	100
M. Ghose Esq.,	...	20
,, Singhee Churn Dutt	...	20
Sitabuldi Reading Club	..	100

WE HAVE read with great interest an article in the *Indian Daily News* of the 17th instant on the Hooghly and the Mutla. The writer points out the difficulties attending navigation through the Hooghly and advocates a ship canal *via* the Mutla. The present idea is not new. As the writer says, "some years ago, Dr. Ralph Moore proposed a ship canal, and laid his views before the then Secretary of State for India, Sir Charles Wood, now Viscount Halifax, who approved of the plan proposed, but so much public money had already been guaranteed for Indian Railways, that he could not then take on himself to guarantee the work in question; otherwise, it would have been long since in operation." We are told that Dr. Moore, who shortly leaves for England, "will, on his arrival, take steps (probably by the formation of a company) to make the canal, which is the only and much needed remedy for the dangers of the Hooghly navigation. Any communication on the subject addressed to the Doctor, care of Messrs. Thacker & Co., 87, Newgate Street, E., will, we believe receive prompt attention." The project certainly deserves consideration, but if it is to be carried out, it ought to be left to private enterprize.

WE DO HOPE that the process of restoring the principality of Mysore to the Maharaja will not be made to bear hard upon the present native officers of the State. Appeals are pouring in to the Viceroy against the orders of Mr. Gordon, the Chief Commissioner. Two of them are before us. We give below some extracts from the memorial of Mr. Krishnaswamy Iyengar :

That the Memorialist is the Senior Native Assistant Commissioner in the Mysore Province. Entered Service, on the 23rd March 1857, under Sir Mark Cubbon, passed through the various grades, always served zealously and conscientiously in all the Divisions of the Province, as borne out by the recorded opinions of the numerous officers under whom Memorialist served, and Public records bear testimony to the quality and quantity of work executed during the long period of Service.

In June 1873, Mr. Gordon, C. S. I., present Chief Commissioner, then Guardian, induced Sir Richard Meade, and the Government of India to prosecute Memorialist on a charge of corruption in Mysore. Was honorably acquitted by the District Magistrate, of Mysore, Major Hill, whose judgment concluding " under these circumstances this Court is satisfied from the preliminary enquiry which it has held under the orders of the Judicial Commissioner, that the accusations brought against the defendant are wholly false and unfounded "

Mr. Gordon then induced Sir Richard to have Memorialist removed from the Service or in the event of the Supreme Government deciding on his retention, to transfer Memorialist to another Province, but the Supreme Government overruled Sir Richard and Mr. Gordon's opinions, refused compliance with their suggestions, and restored Memorialist to his former position with all arrears of pay. Memorialist prays your Lordship to see correspondence between the Government of India and the Mysore Government embracing a period between January and November 1873. Memorialist petitioned Lord Northbrook about this period which was acknowledged by the Private Secretary.

Sir Richard Meade proceeded to Baroda, during his absence, Mr. Gordon who acted Chief Commissioner transferred Memorialist to the Shemogah Malnad Districts, where hard work during an epidemic crisis prostrated him ; previlege leave being refused at a loss of half salary Memorialist went on Medical certificate for seven months. Being prevented from prosecuting the false witnesses either criminally or for Civil damages, Memorialist abstained from further appeal to the Government of India consequent on Sir Richard's expressed regret at Memorialist's trials, and on his return promoting Memorialist to acting 2nd Grade Assistant Commissioner in September 1874, with further assurances of attaining the highest rank. Mr. Dalyell promoted Memorialist to the acting 1st Grade in August 1875, reverted to the acting 2nd Grade owing to the return of the permanent incumbent ; again promoted to acting 1st Grade by Mr. Saunders in April 1876, and to present substantive appointment 3rd Grade in April 1877. Continued in the acting 1st Grade and reverted to acting 2nd Grade on the return of the permanent incumbents from furlough for famine duty. Memorialist was Famine Relief Officer originally in two, latterly in three malarious Taluqs, did Famine duty elsewhere, was Census officer of one Taluq additionally, was also Sub-Divisional Magistrate and Revenue Jamabundi officer in three Taluqs during Famine, travelled ten thousand miles during the 32 months of scarcity, without a day's respite since April 1876. Memorialist here submits that no Native Assistant except Memorialist drew eight hundred Rupees as 1st Grade Assistant Commissioner in the Mysore Commission. Mr. Saunders promised to reward Memorialist's services eventually but left.

Since the assumption of Chief Commissionership by Mr. Gordon, Memorialist's misfortunes and troubles amounting to determined persecution began as the following illustrates.

1stly. Promotion to acting 1st Grade on the departure of Major Logan on furlough in July 1878 stopped.

2ndly. Promotion to substantive 2nd Grade on Captain Ludlow's transfer to the Berars in November 1878 withheld.

3rdly. Superseded by the promotion of three junior Assistant Commissioners to Deputy Commissioners in December 1878.

4thly. Again two more similar supersessions in February 1879.

Lastly. In May last without any reason, directed to revert to substantive 3rd Grade, retrospectively.

Memorialist begs to submit for your Lordships information the opinions of officers under whom he served.

Mr. Bowring, Chief Commissioner " In the rank of the Assistants you have honorably distinguished yourself and I am glad to be able to say so." " I appreciated his (Memorialist's) ability and he did his work conscientiously." " I did not question your ability and had not the smallest suspicion as to your integrity."

Sir Richard Meade " will bear your claims and good services in mind." " Mr. Kristnasami Iyengar deserves great credit for his exertions in this case."

Mr. Saunders. " Has read your Memo on the Magadi Taluq with interest, and that the interest you have taken in aiding relief operations in that Taluq deserve commendation."

General Clerk, Commissioner. " No one knows better than I do the good service you have done in Mysore."

Col. Pearse, Commissioner. " One of the most able men in the Commission." " I am certain you will always do the Government good service wherever you are."

Col. Machutch, the Deputy Commissioner. " You have not spared yourself day or night, work has been your motto and I shall bring to the notice of the Commissioner your most praiseworthy exertions since you have served under me, and where I hope you will serve again." " Major Elliot (Commissioner) had a very high opinion of your abilities."

Mr. Rickets, Memorialist's present immediate Superior. " Mr. Kristnasami Iyengar too has been unremitting in his exertions to aid in Famine matters, and has done an enormous amount of work especially on the criminal side."

Major Blare, Deputy Commissioner. " I have in writing to Major Campbell, told him how much I appreciate your services at the present crisis."

Col. Campbell, Commissioner, in the Appeal judgment on the Shemoga Christo-Mahomedan Riot case, " The Magistrate Mr. Kristnasami Iyengar has in my opinion conducted this difficult and tedious trial with much patience, ability and impartiality. I may add also fearlessness as I am justified in doing from the circumstances of the case." " I wrote on your affairs after receiving your letter of the 24th February 1876, and though sorry to loose your services in this Division, I am glad for your sake that you are going to the Nundidroog Division. I congratulate you on the manner in which you concluded the trial in the Shemoga Riot case." " The stationary appointment of Head Sheristadar has no doubt attractions, but the Government would lose an efficient officer, if you were to quit what may be called the executive branch of the service."

" I have much pleasure in recording my opinion of the efficient manner in which you have conducted your duties at all times when you have been under my observation both in Revenue and Magisterial matters, especially in the trial of the Riot case between Christians and Mahomedans at Shimoga which required the exercise of great firmness and good judgment. I wish you every success in the career which is opening up to Native officers in the Mysore State." *11th January* 1879.

Mr. C. A. Elliot C. S. I's. Famine Farewell Circular. "Among the Assistant Commissioners I select the following as more particularly deserving of mention.

This memorialist has come all the way from Bangalore to Calcutta to lay his grievances personally before His Excellency the Viceroy. We hope justice will not be denied to him.

The other memorial come from Mr. V. N. Tirumala-Charier, Subordinate Judge, Mysore Commission. He too has been compelled to retire on pension. The pith of his complaint is contained in the following extract from his memorial :

That no one is more ready than Your humble Memorialist to recognize the difficulty of re-modelling the administration of Mysore so as to adapt it to the coming change of rule, and he would have been the first to resign office if conscious of unsuitability or unfitness. But as submitted above, Your Memorialist is only 43 years old, a born subject of the Maharajah, a faithful and efficient servant of the Government, has given undeniable proof of efficiency and reputation, is the descendant of a long line of faithful servants and loyal subjects of the Maharaja, is in qualifications, social status, and physical aptitude second to none of the officers who have been retained or who have been recently introduced into the Province and has in addition a far better acquaintance with the language, customs and people of the country and a deeper stake in its prosperity.

Both the cases seem to be hard, and we do hope that His Excellency the Viceroy will be graciously pleased to enquire into their merits. The summary removal of officers, who deserve well in consideration of past services, on the plea of remodelling the administration, does not seem to be consistent with justice or good policy.

A BOOKWORM has favoured us with the following extracts illustrative of the manner in which the return of genial weather after the rigours of winter used to be hailed in Europe. We have in them a reflex of the *Festum Stultorum*, the *Matronalia Festa*, the *Lupercalia Festa*, and the like of the Roman times, and the Holi and the Carnival of our own days. They will, we fancy, be read with as much interest by those who

have spent the last threedays in casting red powder at each other as by those who denounce the practice. The first extract is from Joannes Boemus Aubanus. "The whole of Germany eats and drinks and gives itself up to jokes and sports, as if there was not another day to live, and people wear disguises and masks, or stain their faces and vestures with red and black paint, or run about naked like the Luperci, from whom, I think, this annual exhibition of insanity has descended to us." If we omit the nudity, of which Holi players are never guilty, and change the word Germany into India, the description would exactly fit in for the Holi. Naogeorgus, in his description of the Carnival, is even more precise, and the following verses from his writings may be quoted by way of illustration. No one who has seen the Holi celebrated in India can mistake the lifelike exactitude of the picture given.

"Then old and young are both as much
as guests of Bacchus' feast;
"And four days long they tipple, square,
and feede, and never rest.
"———fear and shame away;
"The tongue is set at libertie, and hath
no kind of stay.
"All things are lawful then and done, no
pleasure passed by,
"That in their minds they can devise,
as if they then should die.

. . . . . .

"Some naked run about the streets, their
faces hid alone
"With visars close, that so disguised
they may of none be knewn."

. . . . . .

"No matrons elde, nor sober man can
freely by them come."

TELEGRAMS.

(From the Press Commissioner.)

Calcutta, March 21st.—Mr. Lepel Griffin was to reach Kabul on the afternoon of the 19th. General Roberts was to ride out to Lataband to meet him.

Kabul, 19th.—Cavalry reconnaissances are being lengthened daily now that the ground is getting fit for movements of troops. All is quiet round Kabul, and supplies are being brought in. At Kandahar a non-commissioned officer of the 25th Sikhs was killed on the 19th by a Ghazi in cantonments. The Ghazi was also killed.

27th—From Kandahar it is stated that the Pughni rebels in Zamindawar have defeated the troops of Sirdar Shere Ali, the latter having expended all their percussion caps and been obliged to cease firing. The military stores and smooth bore Battery presented to the Sirdar will soon reach Kandahar. The Bengal division is expected to march from Kandahar on the 29th to the 31st. The defeat of Muhammad Jan by the Hazaras has damped the hopes of the tribes near Sufed Sang, and their excitement is said to be rapidly subsiding.

COMMERCIAL.

(FROM OUR COMMERCIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Saturday, 27th March, 1880.

The week closing this day, had only four working days, and the remainder being dedicated to holidays, affected business in every department and its operations were confined to a narrow extent.

IMPORTS.

This market has in consequence of great relaxation from business brought in by the annual festivities of red powder amongst the Marwarees and others, experienced much inactivity and nothing of importance has transpired either in piece-goods or yarns.

EXPORTS.

There have been some transactions in this market as described under their respective heads.

Jute.—Continues very firm and prices have still a tendency to rise; a fair amount of business being done every day.

Oil-seeds.—

Linseed.—The new crop has made its appearance in the market and some transactions reported to have taken place.

900 tons small grain 4% refraction @ 4-7-6 @ 4-8

Rape seed.—250 tons 4% refraction @ 3-9 @ 3-10.

400 ,, for forward delivery for all April 3-9.

The following transactions in rice have taken place:—

Ballam 10,000 bags of 2 mds. at 2-10 at 2-14

Khearee 7000 bags of 2 mds. at 2-3 at 2-5

Raree 10,000 bags of 2 mds. at 2-3-6 at 2-8

MONETARY.

There was no change in the rates of discount and interest during the period under review, 7 per cent. per annum continues to be the minimum rate at the Banks, at the Bazar, money was available on deposit of Government Securities at 5 and 5½ per cent. per annum.

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES AND JOINT-STOCK SHARES.

This market has been very dull and the following rates ruled during the time.

22nd March	4% 94-14	4½%	102-1
23rd ,,	,, 94-14	,,	102
24th ,,	,, 94-14	,,	102
25th ,,	,, 94-14 @ 94-13	,,	102

In Joint-Stock Shares limited transactions took place in Cotton Industries and Coals.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

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,, Kadarnath Bagchee, Chunar ...	4	0	0
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,, Monohurrylal Shome, Chinsura ...	2	0	0
,, Bunkobehary Pal, Kayethpara, Annolia ...	6	10	0
,, Shambhunath Roy, Mymensing ...	6	0	0
,, Haranchunder Mookerjee, Peshawar ...	20	0	0
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,, Ambicachurn Sen, Dibroogur ...	6	0	0
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Applications to be made to Chairman Municipal Committee, Gauhati, Assam.

Gauhati; The 20th March 1880. } C. DUMAN, *Dy. Commr. Kamrup.*

A Special General Meeting of the Commissioners of the Town of Calcutta will be held at the Town Hall on Tuesday, the 30th March, 1880, *at* 3 P. M

BUSINESS TO BE BROUGHT FORWARD.

1. The Chairman to submit for consideration, Report of the Market Committee appointed to enquire into the decrease in the market receipts, and to the management of the markets generally.

2. To confirm the Engineer's recommendation of appointing Mr. A. McEwan as Engineer for the Wellington Square Pumping Station.

3. To confirm the appointment of Mr. W. Irvine to officiate for Mr. Price, Superintendent of Pultah Pumping Station.

4. The Chairman to move the election of Mr. J. E. Caithness as a member of the Town Council, *vice* Mr. C. J. Brookes, resigned.

ROBERT TURNBULL,
Secretary to the Corporation.

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Calcutta, 24th March 1880. } H. W. I. WOOD, *Hony. Treasurer*

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The Society is in urgent need of funds and contributions will be thankfully received and acknowledged by

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15th March 1880.

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Required an Overseer for the Rungpore District salary Rs. 80, with travelling allowance of Rs. 22-8 per mensem. Acquirements as per P. W. D. Standard. None need apply who have not had extensive practical experience and whose antecedents will not bear the strictest scrutiny. The candidate selected will be on probation for a year.

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16th March 1880.

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Report by the Directors

PRESENTED TO THE

SIXTY-NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COMPANY.

Held at Edinburgh on Friday 4th April, 1879.

The Directors submitted the following Report on the business done by the Company during the year which closed on the 31st December, 1878.

Life Business.

During the year there were issued 1034 Policies, assuring £1,034,651, the new Premiums on which amount to £33,,022-17-3.

The Claims which occurred during the year, including 20 Endowments, were 262 in number, arising under 322 Policies, and the sums which became payable on account of these amounts, with Bonus additions, to the sum of £220,243-10, after deducting reassurances.

The Life Assurance Fund now amounts to £2,852,566-11-3, being £140,689-19-8 above what it was on 31st December, 1877. The whole of this fund is separately invested, and, by Act of Parliament, set aside to meet the claims under that Department of the Company's business.

Annuity Business.

In the Annuity Department 55 Bonds were issued securing the sum of £2,969-0-6 yearly, and for which, the Company received the sum of £28,892-9-4.

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The cost of a phial is Rs. 5-8 and Postage about Re. 1-4. The parcels for abroad are well-packed and carefully forwarded.

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The medicine is the best of its kind discovered and gives immediate relief. More than ninety per cent. patients are being cured. The cost of fifty pills, which can be administered in more than twenty cases is Rs. 5.

The following are the translation of and extracts from only a few of the testimonials from patients who were cured by the use of my abovenamed medicines. They will be published in full in the form of a Pamphlet soon.

HEM CHUNDRA BANERJI,
Bissir Pokhra, Benares.

My friend Baboo Kristo Nath Singha was bitterly suffering for about four years from Piles, Asthma and Debility. No one, for a moment, could believe that his health would be restored to him nor had they any hope of his life. As if inspired by the Almighty he began to use your Amritarasa and in a short time life was infused into him. The people here have taken it to be a miracle and the sufferers among them most importunately request you to take them under your treatment.

ESHUR CHUNDRA ROY,
Silk Factory, Chorebagan, Calcutta.

The patient who was suffering from the complication of Fever, Spleen, Asthma and other diseases has been thoroughly cured. His case was a hopeless one to Doctors and Boiddas who were consulted. The efficaciousness of your Amritarasa is wonderful.

RAM NARAIN SHAHA,
New Medical Hall, Bhaugulpore.

My youngest was under the treatment of many eminent physicians, owing to his suffering from Spleen, Dyspepsia, Diarrhœa and sores in mouth, for a protracted period of several years with no effect. At last he had recourse to your Amritarasa by the application of which he has regained his health, beauty and his usual liveliness.

RAKHAL DAS CHUCKERBUTTY,
Secy. Hit Sadhini Shobha.

Why should I refrain from enumerating the excellent qualities of your rare valuable and life-giving medicine "Amritarasa" A friend of mine who suffered for a long time from Head-ache and who tried every medicine English as well as Native has at last been relieved from his disease by using your Amritarasa.

RAJENDRA NATH DUTTA,
Secretary, Royna Club.

Amritarasa has been well-tried in the case of my mother who was suffering from colic pain. The result has been wholesome.

MOHIM CHUNDER BHUTTACHARJEE,
Gungarampore, Dinagepore.

Thanks to your "Amritarasa." I have seen the wonderful recoveries of Baboo Radha Nath Mokerjee and his wife from their respective maladies, fearful chronic dysentry and asthma of many years' standing.

SHAMA CHARN MITTRA,
Bansdiha.

A phial of your Amritarasa was used to check the attacks of Dysentery, Dyspepsia and Fever in a lying-in woman. She has perfectly recovered.

HURRI DOYAL CHOUDRY,
Worookshaha, Burdwan.

The wife of my friend was suffering from dysmenorhœia. In times the discharge of blood in her was frightful, and to such an extent that any one would swoon away before the sight. She was under treatment of every description. I am glad to inform you that she owes her recovery to your Amritarasa only.

RAKHAL DASS CHUKKERBUTTY.
Secy. Hit Sadhini Shabha, Nandan, Burdwan.

One of my relatives is almost entirely cured from the complication of such diseases, as chronic fever, spleen and diarrhœa of 7, 5 and 1 years standing respectively. With all these he was greatly reduced too. The efficaciousness of your Amritrasa is beyond description.

MADHUB CHANDRA BASU.
Mymari, Burdwan.

Amritarasa holds the most wonderful power of efficacy in the cure of hysteria, my wife had not had any attack of it since she used it.

SOORESH CHANDRA GHOSE.
Asstt. Surgeon, Roorki.

Eighteen times I procured your medicine which being administered in cases of Asthma, Gout, Chronic fever, Acidity and many other diseases proved quite successful except in the cases of two persons; my wife owes her recovery to this medicine.

DOORGA CHURN BANERJEA.
Bhowanipur, Calcutta.

I bought your medicine to the extent of a sum of Rs. 500. This is a wonderful medicine. In most obstinate diseases it has shown its wonderful power of curing as if by charm. Its efficacy has been fully observed in the cure of such diseases as colic pain, asthma, new and chronic consumption, chronic dysentery, hysteria and other female affections.

KYLASH CHUNDRA ROY MAHASOY.
Zemindar and Honorary Magistrate
Dehoorda, Baleswar.

This wretch is not going to leave you even now but this time I have brought with me such happy news that I am sure I will not incur your displeasure.

Last year exactly in this time, I procured 2 phials of your Amritarasa which you might not remember. For the last 20 years I was suffering from Dyspepsia, Doctors and Kobirajes were consulted in vain. It was also made known to you that I was a great opieta. After the receipt of your wonderful medicine I used one of the two phials but not a particle of good had been done to me notwithstanding I was convinced that the medicine will not be of any use to me untill I can renounce the habit of using opium. But you know Sir, what a difficult task it is for a man like myself to leave opium. This year, however, for various reasons I have renounced my old habit of using opium and have used the remaining one phial with a wonderful wholesome result. I am now thoroughly convinced that I will have my relief by using this medicine. The disease being of many years standing I shall have to use it for a long time for which I send you Rs. 22 for four phials of your Amritarasa. Please comply. I request you not to give this medicine to any one accustomed to the use of opium because in doing so it will be brought to misuse.

SHURID CHUNDER BANERJEE
2nd Clerk, Tipperah Post Office.

Ten rupees worth Cholera Pills bought from you were all used with success. All the patients were cured.

ROMONI KANT ROY
Damrah, Manickgunge.

Ninety patients were cured by your Cholera Pills which I procured.

GOPAL CHUNDER ADHOORJA
Mallara, Doorgapore.

I have great pleasure to inform you that I tried your Cholera Pills in fifty cases, in all of which they proved successful except in the cases of 5 or 7 persons whose diseases were in their most advanced state.

C. W. RICHARDSON.
Chairman, Satara Municipality.

I am requested by the Maharajah of Burdwan to inform you that during the outbreak of Cholera here which happened to occur among the Maharaja's servants your pills were tried and proved to be the best remedy in the cur of this infectious disease.

T. B. MILLER.
Private Secretary.

I have great pleasure in saying that in the year 1876 I have cured 80 out of 86 persons suffering from Cholera with the pills of Baboo Hem Chundra Banerjee. The Civil Surgeon of Benares made an enquiry of me regarding these cures and has kept with him all the papers showing the result and written by my own hand.

GOPEE NATH SOOKOOL.
Benares.

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